

THE STAR'S WORK COMPUTING & HIGH TECH NOT

Microsoft Corp. sets its sights on Jordan

MR CHARLES ALLEN, General Manager of Microsoft Middle East, based in Dubai, visited Jordan this week and met with the staff of the Jordanian company Specialized Technical Systems (STS), authorized Microsoft distributors in the country. Mr Ramzi Al-Zein, General Manager of STS, held a cocktail reception in his honor which was attended by several people working in the computer sector and the press, in which he explained Microsoft's plans in the region as a whole and in Jordan. Mr Allen's visit involved following up on the latest progress of STS.

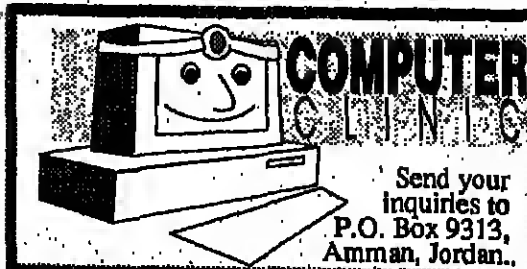
Microsoft's plans for Jordan include the setting up of a technical support program and an educational program offering locally tailored courses on Microsoft applications through authorized training centers which will give graduates certificates of experience. There will also be a marketing push for Microsoft products by following pricing policies which take into consid-

eration the economic situation in Jordan. These prices, designed to fit the market, should also help decrease piracy in the country by showing vendors legal mechanisms to spread software. The focus on sales and marketing will include Microsoft merchandise including books, posters

Microsoft

and give-aways. The general idea is to help the Jordanian market improve and to prompt growth by providing assistance to any local developers working on Microsoft products, or independent software vendors in marketing, who distribute their products in the region and possibly outside. Next year, the company will send employees to present seminars and conferences discussing the strategies of Microsoft Corp. explaining how the pieces fit together.

Z. N.



Send your inquiries to P.O. Box 9313, Amman, Jordan.

Q. What's the difference between a PC with a 386SX micro-processor and a 386DX micro-processor? The reason I'm asking is because I'm considering buying a PC and I've been offered equally good deals on two machines, but they differ in micro-processors.

Khaled Al-Arag, Tila Al Al.

A. Well, Khaled, the truth is

CAD, desktop publishing and others. It is also faster. Still, the 386SX processor is strong enough to serve a home-user, considering that your machine satisfies memory requirements. The basic technical difference is that the SX is a 16/32 bit processor while the 386DX is a full 32 bit processor. Your choice should depend on the applications you intend to run on your PC.

COMPUTER COMPANIES

★ You are invited to share in your news and activities with our readers. Fax your messages to us on 648298 or write to P.O. Box 9313 Amman.

A big surprise in the Apple Vs. Microsoft/H.P. case

THE BIGGEST surprise in the international computer industry for a long time occurred when a judge in a United States court ruled that Microsoft Corp.'s Windows and Hewlett-Packard's New Wave operating systems do not breach copyright laws by including Graphic User Interfaces (G.U.I.), similar in principle to the Macintosh operating system. This is because icons and G.U.I.'s don't count as a personal expression, which means that they are not necessarily protected by the law. Another reason is because of the license Microsoft received from Apple in 1985 to develop operating systems.

If Apple had won its case against Microsoft or H.P. they would have had to pay around \$4.5 billion in compensation. Analysts predict that Apple might win the other parts of the case and that it might appeal this previous decision in another court.

Regardless, this court ruling will allow 10 million Windows users worldwide to feel at ease that they won't be robbed of their friendly window operating system.

News...News...News

Rumor has it that Microsoft Corp. may release the Arabized version of DOS 5 by around the end of this month. Users who have been holding their breath for this news may be relieved to know that the product is ready, but it is merely a matter of setting a release date.

Amstrad have reported shocking losses for the first time since the company started doing business. The losses amount to around £15.2 million. Chairman Alan Sugar attributed this to the recession and the slowdown in the economy. He also cited the price wars led by PC manufacturers, or what he described as "price dumping" in an "over-supplied" market. These losses raise speculations that Amstrad may leave the PC market all together.

INTERFACE BY ZEID NASSER

Criticism of the JCS: The facts

THERE'S BEEN a lot of criticism directed recently towards the Jordan Computer Society (JCS), and it's about time somebody discussed it and put the different opinions on the table.

The JCS was founded with the aims of organizing the Jordanian computer market and providing progress for the computer profession in the country. It officially started in the year 1986 and currently includes over 520 members, compared to around 350 last summer. Such growth in the number of members over this period is somewhat phenomenal.

This growth has meant that the society has been forced to assume many new responsibilities and to handle many more new issues.

Some members claim that the JCS is not providing them with the services it owes them. With its annual general assembly coming up soon, the numbers of members who have paid their membership fees is disappointing. This obviously represents a degree of dissatisfaction on their part. Among the issues raised by these people is the fact that the JCS does not face a problem of resources, since it definitely has all the financial support it needs. In fact, the figure I have heard is over JD 30,000! So why doesn't it put this money to good use?

The Society has achieved many things for which it should be given proper credit for. It has been responsible for the success of the Amman Computer Expo '91, which would have been very difficult to achieve if it had been left to the companies themselves to organize. The expo was also previously held back in 1989, with a certain degree of success. Then, there's the seasonal newsletter prepared by the JCS, "Al-Hasoub". The society has played an active role in promoting the copyright law which is going to be discussed by parliament in its next session, and it has recently agreed with certain parties on providing its members with discounts on computer training courses, which may reach up to 40 percent. If all this isn't progress, what is?

It's a pity that the criticism directed at the society is not very constructive. What is the society? It is its members. There seems to be a misunderstanding of the society's role. The JCS provides a place or a forum for people working in the computer sector to present their ideas and opinions, which should help solve these problems. If these members don't present their ideas, how on earth will the society implement these ideas?

Another very important point is that the society is not a welfare institution obliged to offer its services in helping its members with their problems. Just because these members have paid their membership fees. The JCS provides a place for members to sit and talk and reach a solution by themselves, and will then lend a helping hand.

This is very clear in the JCS' active role in reconciling parties. The society has played, and is still playing, a role in acting as a neutral judge between companies or individuals in conflict.

The basic idea is that members should present constructive criticism and understand the nature of the services provided by the JCS. Anybody with a constructive initiative should actively promote it amongst other members if he or she wishes it to succeed.

A final word that has to be said is that the complaints do most definitely have reasons, and it would be illogical to assume that all these people complaining are in the wrong. But with an understanding of the mechanism by which the JCS works, certain members are to blame for the dissatisfaction of others. In other words, members with complaints should take them to the other elected members responsible, rather than accusing the society as a whole. ■

P.S!

This week is going to be particularly busy for the JCS since they're holding their annual meeting of the general assembly this evening after which the Board of Directors is to be elected. Last week we told you that they'd be doing this last Sunday. Sorry. On Sunday, 26, the JCS will give a seminar on the latest in the world of desktop publishing (DTP) in cooperation with the "Al-Nashar" foundation. On Wednesday, 29, there will be another seminar on "What a computer cannot do".

The Star

Jordan's political, economic and cultural weekly

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اسبوعية سياسية مستقلة

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The WorldPaper

NOT BY BREAD OR RICE ALONE

A new act of challenges is facing farmers who now are being asked to feed a rapidly growing population—while using fewer pesticides and artificial fertilizers that damage the environment. This issue of *The WorldPaper* features reports on the past, present and future of agriculture.

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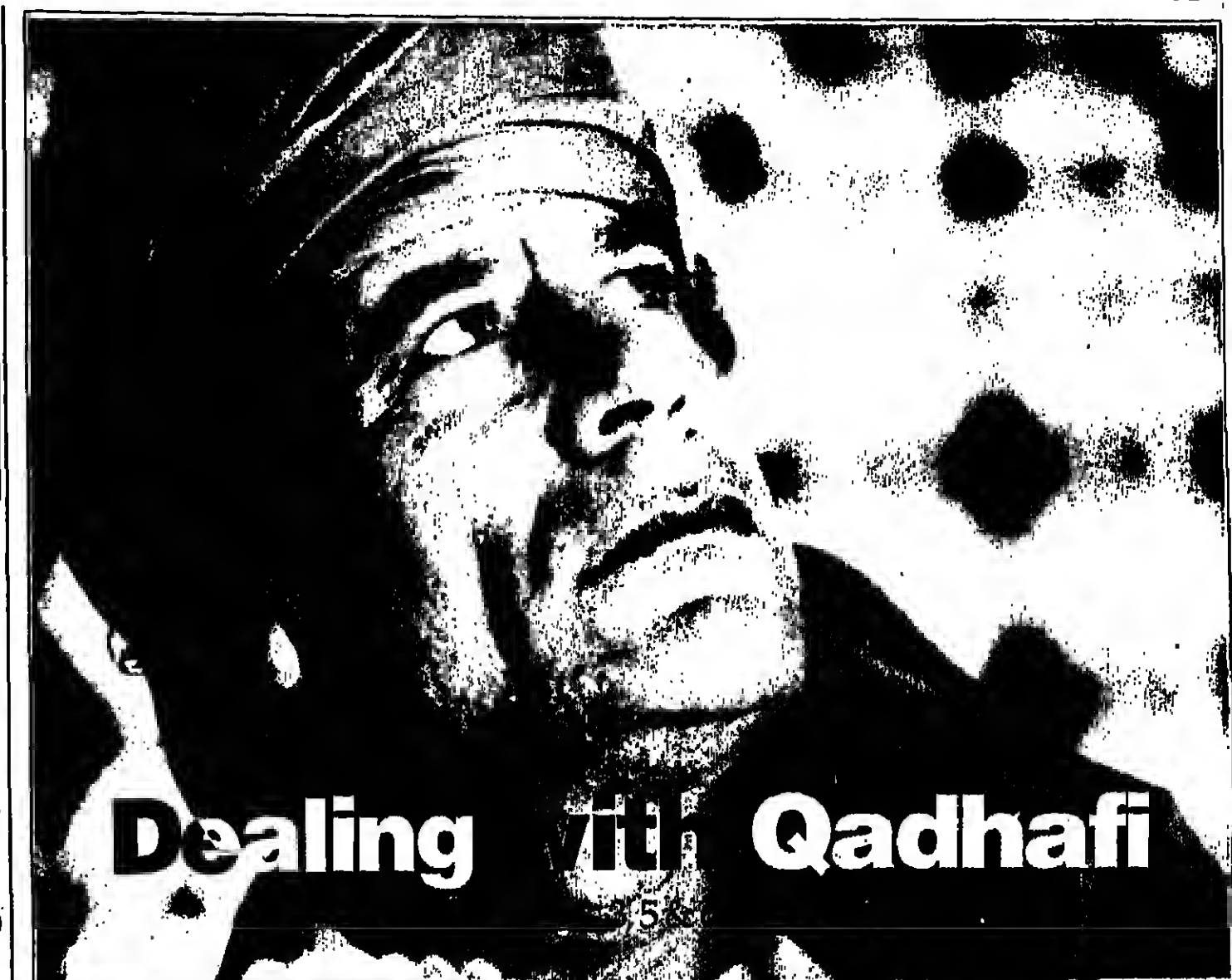
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ECONOMIC PERSPECTIVES

Biweekly economic newsletter
This week's issue:

- The economics of Democracy
- Why is Canada interested in Jordan?
- US banks are coming
- End of the blockade?
- Kuwait's fiscal blues

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JORDAN WEEK

Saving the RCC

Amman's Royal Cultural Centre (RCC) could shut down for lack of necessary funding, according to Ad-Dustour daily. In an interview with RCC's General Director, Mr Iyad Al Kattan, the paper disclosed that the once-thriving cultural landmark is now grappling with financial constraints simply because it isn't receiving the attention it deserves from the Ministry of Culture to which it is attached. Mr Kattan said that the RCC, which was established in 1980, was set up as an independent institution whose finances came from an endowment from the state budget and individual contributions. But since 1982, the center was attached to the ministries of youth, tourism, information and culture consecutively. None of the ministries was able to give the beleaguered center the attention it deserves, according to Mr Kattan.

As a result of these administrative hook-ups, the RCC lost its independence and fell hostage to the financial handouts of

these ministries. Its staff became subject to the civil service regulations, which in Mr Kattan's view brought injustices to the center's staff, some of whom would put in 18 hours daily on certain occasions. In addition, the center's activities suffered from government red-tape, which exemplified itself in the center's inability to maintain its sophisticated audio-visual equipment because of endless paperwork and lack of funding.

The RCC was subjected to the government's policy of austerity which meant that the center's administration was unable to purchase additional equipment, like a photocopier, or even work its airconditioning system when needed. A computer which controls stage lights has been out of order for sometime while the center's monthly electric bill has been reduced to JD 3000. Mr Kattan said that for the center to follow government's regulations on energy and water consumption, it would have to close its door for the remainder of this year. The center's annual budget under the Ministry of Culture is put at JD 180,000, which obviously is too little for the RCC to

maintain its wide-ranging activities which include the holding of seminars, art exhibitions, plays, films and others.

Students in former USSR are in no difficulties

Jordan's cultural attaché at our Moscow embassy Mr Mustafa Al Owdat has announced that Jordanian students in the former Soviet Union universities will not be required to pay tuition fees if they are on scholarships and that the terms of their study in these universities and colleges have not been changed. He made this announcement after meeting with Minister of Higher Education, Dr Awad Khleifat. Mr Owdat added that students who joined these universities for the scholastic year 1991/92 and were not on scholarships are the ones required to pay tuition fees. Mr Owdat said Jordanian students in the former Soviet Union are not facing any difficulties there, as was reported in the local press earlier.

Ministry to compensate victims of snow blizzards

The Ministry of Social Development has prepared a final report on the families that suffered during the snow storms. The report estimated the number of these



King Hussein inspecting Jordanian troops who are part of UN peace-keeping forces in Yugoslavia on Sunday

families at 747 with an average number of family members ranging from six to 15. Financial assistance of JD 127,700 will be distributed to these families at a rate of JD 150-250 for the collapse of mud houses and JD 250-500 for the collapse of cement houses. The report put the number of eligible families at 382 in North Shama, 89 in Deir Ala, 42 in Irbid, 65 in Ajloun, 34 in Tafleh, 26 in Bani Kinanah, 24 in Korah, 24 in Karak, 22 in Jarash, 12 in Mafrag, 11 in Amman, seven in Salt, seven in Ramtha, and one in Madaba and Aqaba each.

Abu Odeh's two political bombs

Local columnists and political activists are still in uproar over Jordan's permanent envoy to the United Nations Mr Adnan Abu Odeh's "two political bombs", which he is accused of detonating on the pages of the international press. Mr Abu Odeh was criticized by various political commentators for his opinion article in the International Herald Tribune on 17 April, in which he called for the internationalization of Jerusalem by dividing it among the followers of the three monotheistic religions, a project which was proposed back in the 1950s and was rejected by the Arab League and Palestinians alike.

Abu Odeh's second "bomb" was his interview in the London-based Al Hayat, in which he defended the goals of his new political party, Justice and Progress. Mr Abu Odeh's call to putting an end to Arab hostility to Western civilization and to working positively with that civilization was seen as a rejection of national and Islamic trends in the Arab world. Indeed, Mr Abu Odeh said in the same interview that Muslim and nationalistic ideologies were on the retreat especially after the end of the Cold War.

Mr Abu Odeh's statements were so controversial that the Foreign Minister, Dr Kamel Abu Jaber, had to publicly distance the government, and his mini-

try, from Mr Abu Odeh's remarks.

Lower House deputy Ziad Abu Ghannima went further to ask that Mr Abu Odeh be made accountable for his statements on Jerusalem which, according to him, contradict the official Jordanian government's policy on the matter.

The editor of the weekly Akhbar Al Isbou, Mr Ahmad Ilawi, wrote in last week's issue that it was a strange coincidence that Mr Abu Odeh's statements on Jerusalem were echoed a few days before in Tunis by Palestinian editor Hana Sinfora. He asked if the proposal on Jerusalem was just a thought or a pre-conceived project whose time has come.

Attention Jordan Valley picnickers

The Public Security Directorate has decided to regulate the flow of traffic in and out of the Jordan Valley area along the various roads because of maintenance work being done on most of these roads. A PSD source said these regulations are taking place to ensure maximum safety as many Jordanians are heading to the Jordan Valley for picnics. The regulations are:

1. All Traffic down to the valley along the Adasyyeh-Na'our-Al-Aghwar road is prohibited from 3 pm until 8 pm; as traffic is allowed only out of the valley on that road during that time.
2. Lorries and pick-ups (25 tonnes and more) are not allowed on the way to Amman via Na'our and Adasyyeh from 3 pm until 8 pm.
3. All traffic down to the valley along the Salt-Wadi Shoub road is prohibited from 3 pm until 8 pm, as traffic is allowed only in the reverse direction, i.e. out of the valley on that road during that time.
4. Traffic along the Zai-Ardheh-Al-Aghwar road is allowed in both directions as well as for lorries and pick-ups at all times.
5. Rear boxes of lorries and pick-ups are never to be used for people transport.



Wanted

Sub-editors to work full-time. Applicants must be Jordanian nationals, university graduates, preferably in

English or journalism. Proficiency in English is a must. No previous experience necessary. Applicants should write to the Editor, The Star, POB 9313, Amman, with all pertinent documents.

By Lina Arafat
Special to The Star

The case against Libya

How just is the UN's cause?

LESS THAN a month after the UN sanctions against Libya took hold, the Arab world is still unable to decide how it can stand by an Arab League member in distress while at the same time comply with a mandatory Security Council resolution against the same member. The Libyan affair centers on US, French and British demands that Libya hands over two of its citizens to stand trial. The two men are accused of being behind the bombing of Pan Am flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland, on 21 December 1988.

Arab governments have abided by the terms of the resolution so far, despite Syria's promises to maintain air links with Tripoli. Meanwhile, an Arab foreign ministers' meeting in Cairo this week remained deadlocked on the Libyan question. Arab League efforts are not expected to make any progress on the matter in the foreseeable future.

Just after the Pan Am bombing, which killed 259 people and 11 more on the ground, Western intelligence reports pointed to the complicity of Ahmed Jibril's Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC), along with Libyan elements. US intelligence sources at the time said Jibril was working for the Iranians, who ordered the operation to avenge the downing of an Iranian civilian aircraft over the Gulf in July 1988 by a US warship, killing all 298 passengers on board.

Only last November did the US Justice Department blame the Pan Am bombing on two Libyans, Abdel Bassel Ali Al Magrahi and Lamen Kholifa Fhimah, who, it claimed, left enough clues in Malta to tie them to the suitcase with the bomb placed on Air Malta flight 180 and then transferred to Pan Am 103.

There are doubts as to whether the sanctions will force Libya's strongman, Col. Muammar Qadhafi, to deliver the two men according to the conditions made by Paris, London and Washington. Arab and Western observers do not believe Libya will be affected much by the embargo. In fact, Qadhafi has welcomed the sanctions saying it will give his people the opportunity to depend more on themselves (see interview on page 5). But this doesn't mean that the Libyan leader will not seek the intervention of Egypt and the Arab League to end the siege.

Egypt, Libya's neighbor, who has some 1.5 million of its citizens in Libya and is considered America's strongest Arab ally in the area, was one of the first Arab states to implement the embargo when it denied a Libyan aircraft landing rights on 15 April. But Egyptian authorities are probably more concerned with Libya's plight than with the Libyans themselves.

Egypt has kept its shared borders with Libya open, to reduce that country's isolation, but still many Egyptian workers are now being sent home from Libya.

"If thousands must travel through Egypt, then we should permit them to pass. It is a humanitarian issue as we try to ease this situation," Egyptian ambassador to Jordan Mr Muhab Muqbel told The Star.

"We maintain a balanced stand, but we cannot but abide by the UN resolution, otherwise it would only aggravate the situation rather than eliminate it," he

said. "Egypt will continue its efforts to contain the Libyan crisis with the least losses possible."

While the United States still maintains that the sanctions will achieve their aim, American officials have recently hinted that the Bush administration is keeping all of its options handy, hinting that this includes military action.

The UN move against Libya has generated much public hostility against the international body and the co-sponsors of the resolutions among the Arabs. The move was seen as another in a series of attempts at subjugating the Arab states, as was the case with Iraq. Commentators and analysts warned that the next victim could be Syria, which is still on America's list of countries supporting terrorism.

"We are aware of the assumption of the double standards, saying that the Arab world is targeted, but that is not the case," said Dr Jonathan Owen, counselor to the US embassy in Jordan. He added that the case has been under investigation for the last four years.

The case against the two defendants is what the latest investigations have led to, so it is not an issue of double standards, it is a legal issue, and now is their opportunity to prove their innocence or guilt."

The US has requested that the two suspects be tried in the United States or Scotland, assuring them a fair trial. Dr Owen said that international law permits the trial of citizens of another country on the soil of another country that has been affected by a terrorist attack.

A four-month investigation by

Time Magazine has disclosed evidence that raises new questions about the case. Among the discoveries based on an FBI field report from Germany, the suitcase originating in Malta that allegedly contained the bomb may not have been transferred to Pan Am flight 103 in Frankfurt, as charged in the indictment of the two Libyans. Instead, the report alleges that the bomb-laden bag may have been substituted in Frankfurt for an innocent piece of luggage. The bag may also have been placed on board the plane by Jibril's group with the help of Monzer Al Kassar, a Syrian drug dealer who was cooperating with the US Drug Enforcement Administration. Another scenario suggests that Jibril and his group may have targeted the flight because an intelligence team, whose job was to find and rescue

the hostages in Lebanon was on board. But the US government's charges against Al Magrahi and Fhimah do not explain how the bomb was traced to them, nor how it cleared Frankfurt's airport security system, known to have the most sophisticated baggage-transfer system in the world.

"There is more than sufficient evidence related to the two Libyans, otherwise the issue would have not been brought up," Dr Owen said.

To justify the Libyan position for not handing the two suspects, many go back to the 1971 Montreal Agreement dealing with criminal activities against civilian airlines.

According to the agreement, to which both the US and Libya are signatories, the US request to hand over the two suspects of the bombing contradicts with article five, which gives the accused party the right of not handing over suspects of its citizens, on the condition that they be tried or handed over to a specialized party. ■

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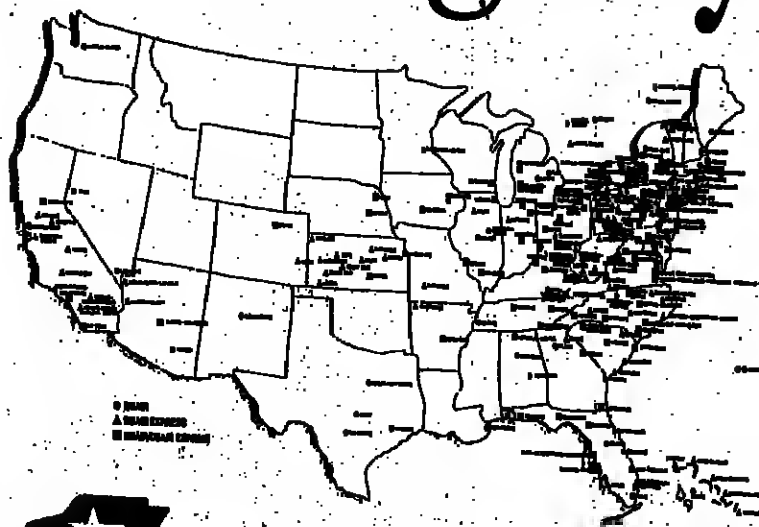
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Do the Iraqi people have to pay so dearly for the sins of their leaders? The rules of "Topple Saddam" game must be changed if the world community is to retain its credibility.

By Sajid Rizvi

LONDON — Has anything changed? The innocent millions who were put to the sword for being on the wrong side of an argument do not belong to the Dark Ages; in Iraq we are allowing multitudes to suffer because we want to punish their government.

An unfashionable viewpoint, that, and one certain to provoke shrugs all around. So what if the Iraqis are suffering? They deserve it all because for years it has been their government at the head of a reign of terror costing hundreds of thousands of lives — Iraqi lives, Iranian lives and the lives of others who did not deserve to die or suffer injury.

There is a problem with the argument against caring for the Iraqis. It is that if we hold innocent people responsible for the actions of their governments, then we begin to justify a whole gamut of activities condemned by international law — from the taking of hostages to the "eye for an eye" killing of those without any apparent guilt, such as the victims of wanton terrorism.

By persuading ourselves that we are simply carrying out what the world community, through the UN, has made law, we are painting ourselves with the brush we have so far kept aside for hostage-takers, terrorists and others meting out indiscriminate "justice" on the unjust. We are not simply being unfair; we are making a laughing stock of ourselves.

Strong opinions, but they are the sum total of the frustration and anger being felt in the international community about the impasse in Iraq. Few international organizations have dared speak their minds, the exception being Oxfam, one of the most blunt observers of international conduct and one of the charities active in Iraq.

The case for an urgent international response to the humanitarian crisis in Iraq has been put forward by Oxfam in occasional salvoes aimed at governments and international organizations such as the UN. Its latest update draws world attention to the fact



Supporting Saddam: The West doesn't like that

that "thousands of people in Iraq are unable to afford sufficient food, have inadequate and contaminated water supplies and there are shortages of drugs and medicines in the hospitals. Malnutrition and disease like typhoid are widespread compared to pre-war levels."

Oxfam is one of several outside agencies helping UN efforts to provide clean water, sanitation, health care and shelter to the displaced Iraqis. These endeavors, however, are bedevilled by a poor international response to UN appeals for funds and by the embargo, which forbids the import of essential development goods into Iraq.

The situation between Jordan and Iraq is an example. Since

February, the Jordanian authorities have tightened up on traffic entering Iraq, allowing only food and medicines. All other supplies, including relief items, are required to have specific approval from the Sanctions Committee based at the United Nations, New York.

This has entailed enormous amounts of paperwork and led to confusion all around. The Jordanian customs authorities, unsure of what is acceptable and what is not, play safe by not letting anything through.

With sanitary conditions deteriorating, there are fears now of a widespread increase in water-borne diseases in southern Iraq. A Harvard University health

study, conducted in September, showed a three-to-four-fold increase in the infant mortality rate.

Two UNICEF studies examining children under five found more than a quarter of them to be malnourished, confirming the findings of several other nutritional surveys conducted in southern Iraq since the end of the Gulf War. Iraq's Ministry of Health lists more than 8,000 children under five who died in January and February alone.

These shocking mortality rates are likely to persist because the capacity of the water treatment and distribution systems has been severely reduced. By Oxfam's account, the whole network may have to be rebuilt.

None of this, of course, is news to the world community or, specifically, the enforcers of measures that have caused the suffering. The UN Security Council has reaffirmed that sanctions will remain in place until Iraq fully complies with all Security Council resolutions and the terms of the ceasefire.

President George Bush, in the meantime, is building up pressure on Saddam Hussein to loosen his military and economic consolidation. The risk of a new flare-up that will envelop the civilian Iraqi populations is yet another calamity remains real.

Western diplomats speaking on condition of anonymity continue

to insist the problem is in Baghdad and not in Washington, London, Brussels or the United Nations. So long as Saddam remains in power, they affirm, the suffering of the Iraqi people will continue. "It is one thing to allow humanitarian aid into Iraq, but it's quite another to decide what is humanitarian and what is helpful to the Saddam regime," said one diplomat.

So the problem that began last year with the Allies' failure to unseat Saddam Hussein and lay the foundations for democratic evolution in the country, as millions of Iraqis have wanted for many years, has snowballed into a stalemate.

The West is not in a position now to rectify its post-war tardiness and subsequent miscalculations. Its political systems are in critical transition, with elections in progress or imminent in important centres of power. Economic and political constraints limit military options that were available last year.

Just as the economic blockade of Iraq has brought on the country's diplomatic isolation it has also fed opportunism among states anxious to build up their exports, however surreptitiously the conditions allow. As sanctions go, those against Iraq will soon acquire their own subterranean counterbalances, with soldiers of fortune of all creeds willing to take risks to earn a fast buck.

In the meantime, Saddam's power will continue to grow and his repressive machinery will become more ruthless and efficient at the expense of innocent Iraqis.

Academic File

FOR THE RECORD

By Ahmad Shaker

■ Four new wells have been drilled in Jordan last year to search for oil, sources told The Star. During last year 42,000 barrels of oil were produced and 5.4 billion cubic feet of natural gas, the sources added.

■ Egypt's ambassador in Amman, Mr Muhab Muqbel, will be transferred. The Egyptian government is to name his successor during the coming days.

■ An aluminum cast factory, the first in Jordan, will be set up at a capital of JD 1 million, The Star has learned. Jordan's Arai Co. and an Italian counterpart will execute the project.

■ About 1.9 million Arab visitors came to Jordan last year compared to 264,000 foreign visitors.

■ Egypt's energy and electricity minister will visit Jordan before the end of next May, sources said. He will discuss a project to connect the electricity grid between the two countries, which is expected to be launched in 1995.

■ Seven Jordanians have submitted applications to purchase the Jordan Gulf Bank, banking sources revealed.

■ Royal Jordanian (RJ) has requested the government to study the possibility of awarding the airline financial compensations for damages incurred during the Gulf War. Meanwhile, RJ's plans to privatize have been put on hold for the time being until the issue of the company's previous losses is resolved. Foreign companies have showed interest in purchasing RJ shares, if the privatization plans go ahead.

■ The government is expected to offer for sale lands along Aqaba's south shore, and the Dead Sea, for the purpose of commercial and tourist development.

■ A Labor Ministry delegation will fly to Cairo to discuss the problem of thousands of Egyptian laborers working in Jordan. The Labor Ministry has given foreign workers in Jordan until 3 May to legalize their presence in Jordan and renew their work permits. The ministry is launching a plan to gradually replace foreign workers with Jordanian ones as the rate of unemployment in the Kingdom continues to soar.

■ May will be the month of computer exhibitions in Jordan. Apple, Compaq, Hewlett Packard (HP), Data Mini and GCE-IBM will each hold exhibitions of their products during next month.

A journey in the mind of Qadhafi

'We welcome the embargo!'

The Colonel speaks about the sanctions, the Pan Am affair, Iraq, the atomic bomb and his declaration to be named Muslim Caliph

LIBYA's Muammar Qadhafi is still defiant despite the UN embargo against his country. He says the countries which perpetrated the UN resolutions will lose face and not his country. In an interview conducted recently by Pierre Laforet in Tripoli, the Colonel warned that President Bush may attack Iraq once again and that like his country, Syria and even Egypt will be next on America's hit list.

Q: Are you worried about the recent UN decisions against your country?

A: No. Countries which initiated the decisions will lose face. Not Libya. Hundreds of companies currently work on Libyan soil. About two million workers stand to be in difficulty. The states which provoked us and derived some satisfaction from this will rapidly be deprived of many billions, which Libya will use elsewhere.

In fact we welcome the embargo. It would give us the opportunity to fall back on our own resources. England and France will only punish themselves. The United States will turn against new enemies. America will abandon its allies for new, more interesting ones. That's what happened in Kuwait.

At the moment, France receives its orders from the White House, which couldn't care less about the welfare of the French people.

So far we have been lenient with France, Britain and other European nations, despite their political attitude. Their companies continue to work on our soil. But this cannot continue. Because politics and business go together.

Q: And England?

A: Let's not even discuss it. The Conservatives and their policies have ruined Britain. Demolished the working classes. Transformed the English into tramps. The English government hates Arabs, hates Muslims. It hates Britain, a country which nonetheless is home to a marvelous civilization. And I won't mention poor Mr Major!

Q: A summit to bring the five Maghreb states (Libya, Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco and Mauritania) with the five states of the Western Mediterranean (Italy, France, Spain, Portugal and Malta) was postponed because of the recent events in Algeria. It was called the 5-plus-5. What is your view on such a meeting?

A: This project was destroyed by the French government's position; after the Pan Am problem and the alliance of France and Britain with the United States.

Q: Did this come as a shock to you?

A: Yes. Like a slap, which the other nations of the Maghreb also felt. France insulted them. France wants our cooperation while it walks on our own bodies. The French believe that Arabs have no feelings. They are wrong.

Q: How is world politics affected by the US presidential elections this year?

A: American elections are poisoning world affairs. Bush isn't the candidate all Republicans want. Over one third among them do not approve with his policies. He won't have an easy election. Perhaps his media advisers will rally the support of part of the ultra-nationalist electorate to his side.

My personal sources tell me he will try to stage a new attack on Saddam Hussein's Iraq, or he will try to undermine my regime and my country through economic, strategic and political aggression. Anything goes when the issue is getting re-elected. Including harming the freedom and independence of peoples.

Q: What do you think about elections currently being held in Europe, and those coming up?

A: I cannot hide from you my desire to see the victory of the European right. I have had enough experience with the socialists.

Q: And what about Iraq?

A: Do you really think that a Kuwaiti citizen is happy with the destruction of Iraq? Yesterday I received two Kuwaitis. For them a bomb falling on Kuwait or on Iraq is the same thing. Do you imagine that a Kuwaiti citizen who dies under a bomb is different from an Iraqi citizen who dies under a bomb? America didn't defend Kuwait, but its own interests, its oil. That's what Saddam explained to his people. The Iraqi people now know this fact. And despite the position we took against Iraq at the time, in relation to the Kuwaiti invasion, we believe that after Iraq, it will be Libya's turn, and after Libya, Syria's turn, followed by Algeria and finally, Egypt.

Q: Do you believe that religious fanaticism will spur a form of fundamentalist hegemony?

A: Western tyranny regarding the Arab world is nothing new. Muslim fundamentalists perceived this series of permanent insults for many years; insults to their tradition, their lifestyle, their culture. The West has always disregarded Arab civilization, violating its sacred lands. These repeated violations have provoked a serious reaction.

Continue to pour oil on fire and you can only have explosive results. I recently granted an audience to fundamentalist leaders who asked me to ensure the sacred light. They needed a Caliph (successor to the Prophet and head of the entire Muslim community). If I accept, the whole world will be put on fire. So I asked them to be patient.

But in Libya there is no fundamentalist movement. For this they would like Libya to be their bridgehead. It's a matter of "revolutionary authenticity" they say. They hope to thus avoid any western influence and colonization.

Q: Is terrorism one way to solve political problems?

A: Political problems are the cause of terrorism. If one wants to end terrorism, solve political issues; Palestine, the minorities, South Africa. Only then will one see an end to terrorism. It is in-



Qadhafi: "Parliaments are a big joke"

possible to end terrorism in lands which are occupied.

Q: Regarding world opinion, do you believe in polls?

A: I only believe in direct and popular democracy. Parliaments are a big joke. I remain convinced that the world will some day understand what I wrote in my "little green book."

What is important is for the people to be able to express their views. I believe in the concept of a people's congress where small groups of citizens can gather and voice their views to be heard by those who govern them. In this manner, no dictatorship would be possible, and the people self-govern themselves.

Q: Do you believe that one day you'll have the atomic bomb?

A: As long as I live Libya will not produce an atomic bomb. If Libya wanted to have its own bomb, it wouldn't have thought about the large artificial river and about building it. Am I forbidden from making a bomb? It would be stupid to imagine so. No one has the right to prohibit anyone from making the bomb. It is permitted to all of us.

Had we wanted it, Libya would have used its billions to build the bomb. But Libya isn't stupid enough to waste its revenues on building a bomb. We are spending our billions on winning over the desert, to setting up a viable industrial base, on favoring our agriculture, on educating the people, on protecting the environment, or medical research against AIDS, etc.

Q: Let's talk about the Pan Am affair. Where are you in your own investigation, is there an aspect to the Lockerbie tragedy which the West is unaware of? Do you have revelations to make? Which ones?

A: I have never told anyone be-

fore what I am going to tell you now. Pan Am had asked professional investigators, formerly working for the CIA, to investigate the bombing. We obtained that report, which the bankrupt company couldn't afford to pay for. As soon as I got it I forwarded it to President Bush in whom I have faith. He never replied. Perhaps because he is busy campaigning. We know the authors of the bombing, which totally clears our country. Contents of

the report, which are indisputable and objective, or the very existence of the report, were never once mentioned before members of the United Nations Security Council. Families of victims of the Lockerbie bombing believe that Libya was chosen to be a scapegoat. But the families want to know the truth. They do not want political considerations to blur the truth.

Q: Can families of the Pan Am victims have access to the report?

A: Of course.

Q: So, the truth exists somewhere.

A: Yes. ■

Money Matters

Average exchange rates in JLD

Tuesday 28/4/1992

	Buy	Sell
US\$	689.0	691.0
DM	1214.2	1225.3
£	416.0	418.1
SFR	448.6	450.8
FRF	123.3	123.8
YEN	511.8	514.4
(100)		
DEL	369.7	371.5
SKR	115.2	115.8
LIT	55.3	55.6
(100)		
BLF	202.4	203.4
(10)		

Gold & Silver

Gold	ID
1kg	7,575.00
21 ct	6,650
18 ct	5,500
Eng. pound	7,250
8g	
Rashad:	8,425
7g	55.50
24ct (swiss)	150.00
Silver (1kg)	

Deposit Rates

Euro-deposit rates:

	US	DEM	STG	Yen	SFR
1 mo.	3.5/16	9.13/16	10.5/8	4.3/4	8.7/8
2 mo.	4.00	9.7/8	10.5/8	4.11/16	8.3/16
3 mo.	4.1/8	9.7/8	10.1/2	4.11/16	8.3/4
6 mo.	4.5/16	9.13/16	10.7/16	4.11/16	8.9/16
1 year	4.3/4	9.3/4	10.3/8	4.11/16	8.5/16

Interbank rates (Jordan):

Saving accounts 6%. Call accounts 6%, 1 week 6%, 1 month 7%, 2 months 7.25%, 3 months 7.50%, 1 year 8%. Lending rate (AAA) 12%.

Dollar:

DMK SFR STG YEN CAN FRF
LAST 1.6355/65 1.518/90 1.7740/50 133.20/30 1.1953/68 5.5840/60

Source: Amman Bank for Investment, Tel: 642701

ANNOUNCEMENT

The ADC-Regional Office has recently formed a Writer's Committee with the goal of creating a link between the Arab World and the Western media through the publication in American newspapers, of articles written by Arab authors and intellectuals.

Our aim is to provide the Western world with a point of view other than that which has been prevalent in the West during the past.

Therefore, this committee invites all those interested to participate in this effort to address the Western public by contributing articles to assist us in our attempt to highlight and better serve the Arab position.

Those interested are requested to complete the form below and return to us at the following address:



ADC Regional Office
P.O. Box 1027 Amman
Jordan



I would like to contribute to the goals and objectives of the Writer's Committee. Please send me further information to the following address:

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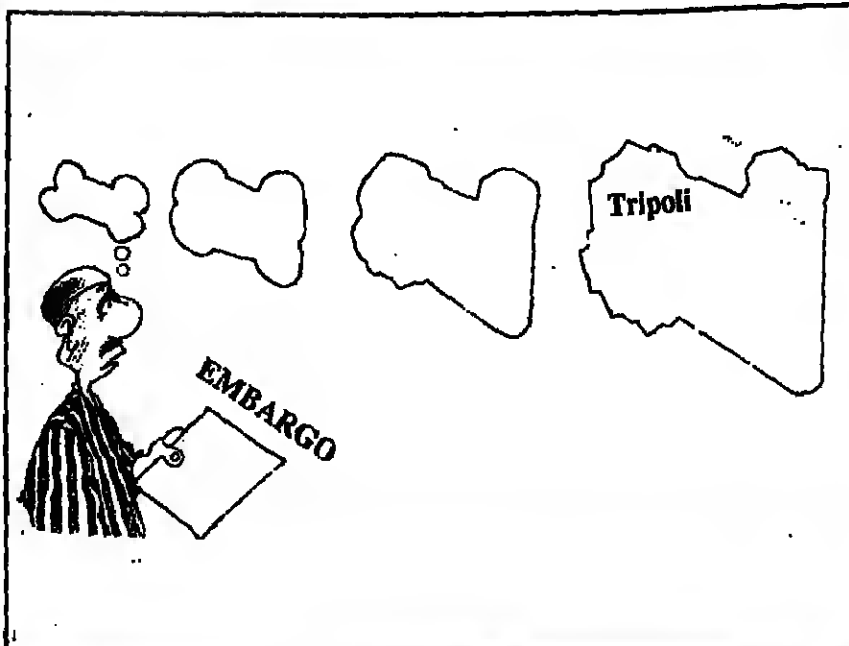
P.O. Box:

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I would prefer to write in [] Arabic [] English



Our Say...

Dealing with Qadhafi

THE ARAB world is facing a new dilemma: What it should do about Libya and its current confrontation with the United States, Britain and France over its alleged involvement in the bombing of two Western aircraft. The tripartite onslaught against Libya has been given legitimacy in the form of the UN Security Council resolution 784. The resolution, which calls for an air embargo amongst others, is mandatory and will have to be respected. On the other hand, Libya is a member of the Arab League and is in need of the aid and support of her Arab sisters.

The Arabs cannot dissuade the United States, leader of the Libya-bashing campaign, from leaving Libya alone. And they are unable to find a compromise that will deliver the two Libyan suspects to justice in a neutral country so as to close this unfortunate case for good. The reason for this is that both Colonel Qadhafi and the US-led alliance against him know that the real issue is much more than the issue of delivering the two men to court.

The Arabs also know this: What Bush, Major and Mitterrand want is Qadhafi's head on a silver platter. Their motives are not much different from the ones that led to the destruction of Iraq last year. As the siege of Iraq continues into its second year, the price of Iraq's "emancipation" remains the same; toppling Saddam Hussein.

It would be foolish not to recognize these solid facts. The Libyans are being punished for putting up with their leader, a man the West has detested for many years. In this sense, the true objectives of the present crusade against Libya become visible. The West's harassment of Qadhafi will not end even if he agrees to surrender the two men in his custody. And if he does just that, and the West continues to tighten its noose, the Arab world will still be facing the same dilemma it is confronted with today.

One has to admit that the colonel has done little to win himself friends and admirers both at home and in the Arab world. Almost every Arab country has suffered in one way or another as a result of his irrational behavior and irresponsible actions. One might even say that the colonel's type of leaders do not belong any more in today's Arab world, which is in need of pragmatic and creative men to lead it out of disarray and into better times. To take it one step further, one might dare declare that the colonel had it coming and that he is getting what he deserves.

But having said that, one cannot condone in any way the punishment of the Libyan, or the Iraqi peoples, simply because the West can't do business any more with their leaders. The same countries that now seek to ostracize Iraq, Libya, Syria and Iran are the ones that did billion dollar business with these countries and worked closely, too closely, at one time or another with their leaders who are now international pariahs.

Dealing with Libya becomes a matter of conscience and not politics when it comes to sacrificing innocent people just to get even with their leadership. The Arabs can afford to say no to the UN if they work collectively and in unity. But since this is far from taking place at present, one may choose to publicly renounce the current crusade as a blatant violation of international law and conventions. ■

Letter from Washington Time is ripe for confidence building measures

By Jenab Tutunji

LITTLE PROGRESS has been achieved since the Arab-Israeli peace talks resumed in Washington on 27 April, and little will be expected before the end of this year when the Israeli and American elections will be over. All the parties involved have agreed to meet in Rome instead of Washington, which comes close to satisfying an Israeli demand for the talks to be held in the Middle East. What more can the Arabs do to satiate the Israeli ego? Excuses are in plentiful supply for anyone who wants to procrastinate.

The Israeli delegation is said to be bringing with it proposals for Palestinian municipal elections, or for representative Palestinian bodies to oversee health or educational services as a step towards autonomy. Anyone who holds his breath under the circumstances will be asphyxiated.

It is clear to everyone that the Arab and Israeli delegations are talking at cross purposes. The Arabs want to trade peace for territory and full autonomy for the Palestinians. Israel, on the other hand, is willing to trade autonomy for security. We all know that the current Israeli government is unwilling to give back any territory at all, but recent polls seem to indicate that — except for the Diehard Israeli settlers in the West Bank and other vociferous minorities — the Israeli public in general is not nearly as intransigent on this score.

Apart from the question of Jerusalem, the occupied territories appear to be negotiable. Yet, no future Israeli government is likely to offer the Palestinians under occupation full autonomy at one go. The current US administration, which has been willing to apply pressure on the Israeli government, expects the Palestinians to be satisfied with an incremental approach; there is no expectation that Israel will simply hand back the occupied territories at one go, or that it will hand back Jerusalem even in the long run.

Informed American observers of the Israeli scene argue that the best the Arabs can hope for is a measure of limited autonomy to start with, which could then serve as a building block for further autonomy. Perhaps, eventually leading to self-determination, even a Palestinian state. The magic ingredient that will make this possible is a growing sense of security on the part of the Israeli public.

This diagnosis says the problem is mainly psychological; it is a question of trust. The Israelis feel menaced by the Palestinians; they are threatened by the Intifada; they can sense the hatred of Palestinian children who throw rocks at the settlers and the army; they are insecure because of the widespread support for the PLO; they feel that an independent Palestinian state could grow into a security threat in the future.

It is argued that if the Palestinians were granted limited autonomy and the Israelis were to discover they could travel to Palestinian areas and not feel threatened, then they would be willing to experiment with further autonomy. One thing will lead to another. As Israel's sense of security grows, so will Palestinian autonomy; what is needed are confidence building measures. The path to Palestinian autonomy is to be found by nurturing a sense of Israeli security. The Israeli public must be won over.

The Palestinians must then show that

they can let bygones be bygones. This may be a good and fruitful approach — if peace is to come about, no doubt an atmosphere of trust will have to prevail, and Palestinians will have to forgive and forget. They will have to show the Israelis that they are ready to accept them as their neighbor. If that is not assumed, the peace talks will be for naught.

Yet, it is manifestly unfair to demand that the occupied should have to assuage the fears of their occupiers; it is unreasonable that the weak who poses no real threat should have to reassure the strong, who have proven time and again that they can defend themselves.

But the world we live in is neither fair nor reasonable. The question is: Will it work? Will this approach lead to the desired result? For those stooped in the politics of compromise, as the Americans have, this is a reasonable expectation. For significant segments of the Israeli public this is the case as well.

Those Israelis who fear the wrath of the Palestinians for good reason, those who fear the vengeance of the oppressed, can be shown that the Palestinians can be forgiving. But for some Israelis the fear is visceral; the perceived threat emanates not from the Palestinians, but from a distant or not so distant past i.e. from Germans or Russians or other Europeans, the threat is then projected on the Palestinians, who are made a surrogate and a scapegoat, who are subjugated and humiliated as though to show the fear can be overcome, to show that Israel is strong enough to defeat the threat.

For those Israelis who are unbending in their hatred, no confidence building measures will suffice; and those same Israelis will fight any compromise tooth and nail. The Palestinians too need psychological reassurance. For the average Palestinian the perceived threat from Israel is real and is as large as life. The Palestinians under occupation are in daily contact with Israeli settlers who hate them and confiscate their property. Israeli soldiers who seek to subdue and control them, and undercover agents who shoot them on suspicion. They have more than good reason to be afraid.

This atmosphere of intimidation must be dispelled, the long nightmare must end. The Palestinians need to be treated fairly and with dignity. They must be reassured their occupiers realize that they, too, are human beings. The abuses of the occupation must cease. If an offer of limited autonomy is made to the Palestinians, it should not be made as a scrap thrown from the table, but as a gesture of good will and with assurances that there is a genuine willingness on the part of Israel to see the process through an outcome that guarantees dignity for the Palestinians and promises them an honorable life. The Israelis can then look to the Palestinians to allay their fears. Confidence building measures need to be mutual. ■

Jenab Tutunji is a Jordanian journalist living in Washington.

April
1992

The World Paper

ISSUE:
THE GREEN
REVOLUTION RAGES

SPOTLIGHT ON AGRICULTURE

Not by bread or rice alone

BY MARK RITCHIE
in Minneapolis, USA

A NEW SET of challenges is facing farmers, from the highlands of Peru to the broad river bottoms of mid-western North America.

Farming families around the world still rise early each morning to tackle much the same daily tasks that kept their parents and grandparents busy. But now farmers are being asked to feed a rapidly growing population while cutting back on the use of artificial fertilizers and chemicals which damage the environment and destroy wildlife habitats. And as concern about global warming increases, there are rising demands on farmers to produce "green fuel" crops on a major scale so that ethanol can replace petroleum products.

There are messages for farmers also in the fact that consumers standing in line to buy bread in Kiev are thinking long and hard about basic food security, and in questions by ecologists about the wisdom of leveling rain forests and pumping rivers dry to produce more beef for Europe and North America, which are already protein-rich.

Gone are the days when all society asked of farmers was to provide large quantities of raw commodities at the lowest possible price. Today there are new demands and expectations which require radical changes in agriculture. But before the pace and direction of change can become clear, underlying questions must be answered.

Continued on the next page

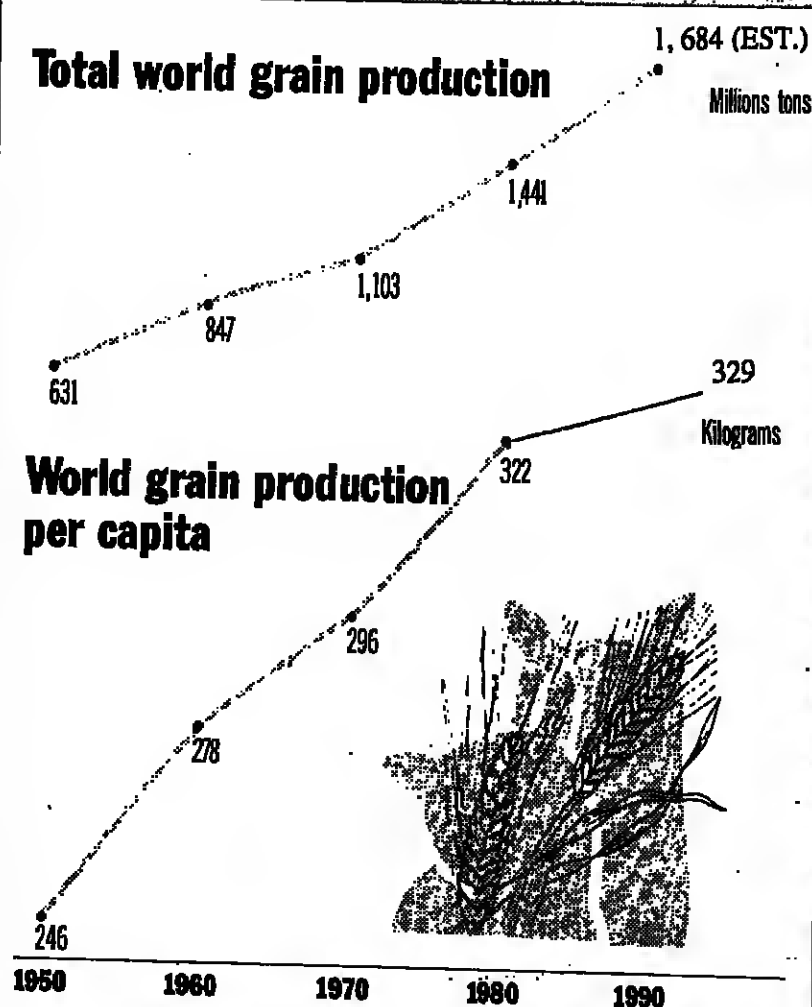
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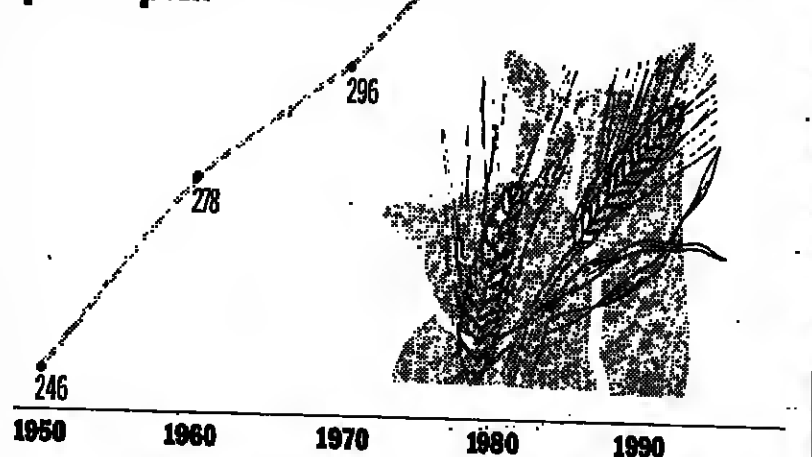
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SPOTLIGHT ON AGRICULTURE

Total world grain production

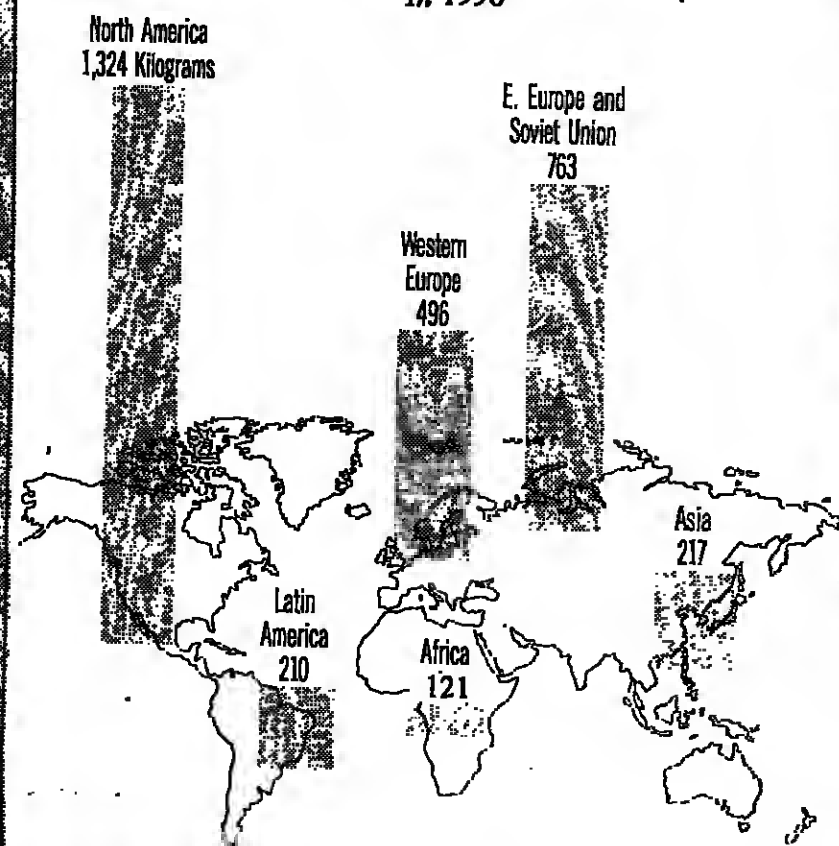


World grain production per capita



Regional grain production per capita

In 1990



Not by bread or rice alone

Continued from previous page

First is the seeming paradox of hunger in a world of apparent food surpluses. Is there a shortage of production or a shortage of political will to deal with problems of distribution? Experts generally agree that for the present there is adequate production capacity, but for the longer term the question is hotly contested.

The president of the Worldwatch Institute (a Washington, D.C.-based environmental think tank), Lester Brown, argues that global shortage threatens because population and consumption are increasing while the rate of increase in agricultural productivity is falling.

But Norman Borlaug, who won the Nobel Peace Prize for his role as "father of the green revolution," and other scientists believe that technological and political developments will lead to quantum leaps in production. In a recent speech on "Solving world food problems through plant genetics," at the University of Illinois at Urbana, Borlaug described the possibilities of raising crop yields through biotechnology and by improving conventional methods of farming. Alongside these scientific advances, political changes could lead to major improvements in farming efficiency—for example, privatizing farms in the former

Mark Ritchie is the executive director of the US-based Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy.

communist countries of Europe.

A completely different tack is taken by Jeremy Rifkin, president of the Foundation for Economic Trends, who has launched an international campaign to reduce beef consumption by 50 percent over the next 15 years. This would make it possible to shift beef production back to family farms where beef cattle would graze instead of eating billions of pounds of grain every year—and the incentive to level rain forests to make way for beef cattle would be reduced.

Is it realistic to expect farmers to feed, clothe (and maybe fuel) the exploding population while using less energy and fewer chemicals and artificial fertilizers? The answer seems to be yes, based on scientific research and crop experiments in dozens of countries. In the Philippines, for example, researchers at the International Rice Research Institute are working to boost yields while reducing the use of pesticides by what is called Integrated Pest Management (IPM), a combination of breeding plants to resist pests and biological control of pests. Some claim that IPM will reduce pesticide use in rice by 50 percent. A Brazilian agronomist working in Britain, Tadeu Caidas, cites field trials in countries as different as Germany and the Dominican Republic, and in other countries, to show that low-chemical organic farming can out-produce high-chemical methods in yields and profits.

Perhaps the largest recent study of

the question was by the US National Research Council's Board of Agriculture which analyzed the link between chemical use and productivity on more than a dozen US farms for almost a decade. The conclusion was that the technological capacity exists to maintain and even increase productivity while reducing significantly the use of chemicals. The NRC urged reforms in federal farm programs "to help farmers realize the full benefits of the productivity gains possible through many alternative practices." Alternative farming practices include crop rotation, biological pest control, and improved machinery.

To help peasant farmers minimize the use of chemical pesticides and fertilizers, the Federation of Social Organizations for Social and Educational Welfare in Rio de Janeiro has produced a list of necessary policy changes and practical assistance, including democratization of credit services and price supports. Many other organizations around the world are developing specific policies and programs for agriculture in their regions.

Are farmers really going to be expected to produce "green fuel" crops on a massive scale? Environmentalists are the most vocal advocates, but there appears to be a trend for state and local governments in the US to meet the standards of the federal Clean Air Act by making motorists add to gasoline a percentage of ethanol, which can be made from grain and burns "cleaner" than petroleum fuels. And Brazil, unable to earn enough to import oil, has already converted most of its home-produced

vehicles to use ethanol derived from home-grown sugarcane.

There are three main reasons to believe that the world demand for "green fuels" will rise to massive proportions: oil and gas are essentially non-renewable resources and supply at a reasonable price will eventually become a critical issue; even with adequate supplies, embargoes and wars such as the Gulf War can disrupt whole societies; and continued reliance on petroleum results in acid rain, global warming and huge oil spills.

But will farmers respond to calls for radical change—for a new world order in agriculture? Fortunately, trends in the industry seem to favor such a transition. *Food Matters Worldwide*, a UK-based monthly publication, recently reported that in dozens of countries, including many in the Third World, there are fast-growing movements for sustainable agriculture. Even in the US, which was for years held up as a model of successful high-chemical agriculture, the National Farmers and Ranchers Congress, as far back as 1986, resolved "that a program should be developed based on a sustainable food and energy system utilizing farm products for food and fuel that will also enhance environmental conservation of soil, water, and air quality."

To assist the transformation, a new social contract will be required, meeting the needs of farmers for a physically safe, financially secure and personally fulfilling way of life and the sometimes conflicting demands of urban consumers, of rich and poor, of hunters and animal lovers, and ecologists.

SPOTLIGHT ON AGRICULTURE

A promise that blossomed
Despite early criticism, green revolution worked

What happened to the so-called green revolution? It promised to revolutionize subsistence farming by providing high-yield grains, modern fertilizers and irrigation to the less-developed world. But critics claimed that it would lead to worsening inequality and unemployment in rural economies where larger landowners would reap the benefits of the green revolution first.

Researchers Peter Hazell and C. Ramasamy from the US-based International Food Policy Research Institute conducted a study on the impact of the green revolution on North Arcot, a rice-growing region in South India, and published their results last year in the book *The Green Revolution Reconsidered*. In the following interview, co-author Peter Hazell talks about the good news of the study.

Q. Initially there was a lot of enthusiasm over the green revolution, but we don't hear much about it now. After all the work you've done, do you still believe in it?

A. I think the message has got to be that the green revolution is critical to India feeding itself. In the mid-1960s most thought India was going to be a basket case—mass starvation. For a country that was once dependent on US food aid, it has turned around to produce food surpluses. There's no question that in increasing food production, the green revolution has been a success. The only thing that was debatable was whether the poor would benefit. But we saw not only high-yield increases, but the quality of their diets increase and their incomes increase—rich and poor alike.

Q. So the farmers benefited, but what about the non-farming population?

A. The buying of farm inputs, fertilizers, machinery—all this was just as important as what the farmers did in the field. The farmers, as consumers, spent their additional income in villages or local towns—and those linkages are very important. There is a lot of growth in the service sector. People want to take a bus to town and go to the movies. They want to improve their homes, so they hire carpenters, or they want their homes painted, etc.—it stimulates a lot of labor-intensive industry. So, it is good for poverty alleviation. A lot of poor people, even within villages, get significant income from part-time, non-farm activities.

Q. Was there any increase in unemployment in North Arcot?

A. What one would have expected is that there would be more workers through population growth and for mechanization to decrease jobs, resulting in lower wages and more unemployment. But that didn't happen. Employment didn't go down because there wasn't much mechanization. But they have more frequent rice crop production per year, so there's more employment through that. They cancel each other out.

One of the fears was that tractors would displace workers. In North Arcot the plots of land are small, they don't need tractors—and when you have cheap labor, it doesn't make sense to mechanize. But the total employment in days per year went up because of their extra crops. Family workers now spend more time working on their

own farms because of the extra growing season.

There is also a preference for more leisure—if they have a little more money they tend to work less hard—so they participate less in the labor market. With the larger farms, family workers withdrew from the market altogether, leaving more jobs for the poor. People were also moving to the town, reducing the agricultural labor pool.

Q. The Indian government seemed committed to the green revolution's success in North Arcot. Is public sector aid essential?

A. Yes, a lot of things the government must provide. It's one of the things that distinguishes North Arcot from, say, parts of Africa: you need transport, a marketing system, still you need credit, extension services, (and) local research capabilities. The government had to put a lot of effort into research, infrastructure, and marketing. The current trend is to privatization, and we could argue that some of these things could be privatized, but these things have to be there no matter whether they are private or public.

Q. Some say that population increases and environmental degradation are eroding the gains of the green revolution—do you agree with this interpretation?

A. In areas like North Arcot, yields are increasing modestly, and as there are more breakthroughs, they will keep going up—but there's plenty of room for improvement. What I think the critics

are referring to is evidence in places like the Philippines where they have been growing crops intensively, doing intensive monocropping. Under those high-stress conditions, there is going to be deterioration, yields are topping out due to pest buildup and soil degradation too. Under high-yield, intensive agriculture—under those conditions—you can stress the system to the point where it can break down. But most of the world's rice is not farmed that intensively.

Q. What biotech improvements, specifically, can you envision that will help Indian farmers in North Arcot?

A. I don't think there will be any miracle technologies. They will try to build in greater tolerance to drought, pests and diseases—those kinds of things are helpful because you don't lose production in bad years. If the plant is no longer stressed too much by those things, it puts a bottom on the fall of production. Whether they are going to be making any changes in the structure of plants remains to be seen, perhaps in the next century.

Q. Do you see any promise in Integrated Pest Management (IPM)—a chemical-free form of pest control that relies on using "good insects" to control "bad insects"?

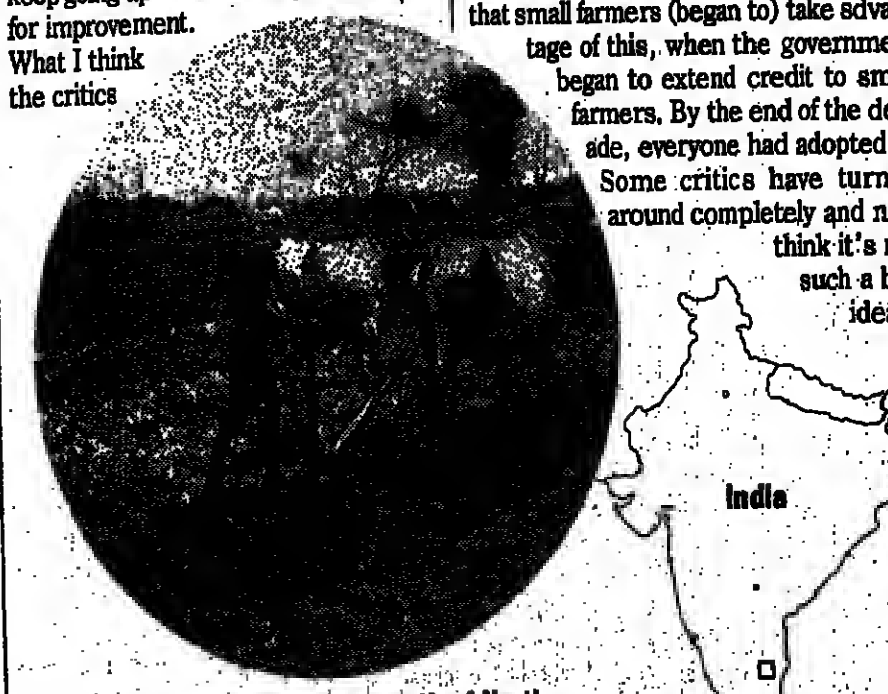
A. That's the ideal way to go. The problem with pesticides is you get insects that build up resistance. Those kinds of problems are getting worse, not in North Arcot, but this is a problem in other, more intensively farmed areas. For instance, in cotton farming in Australia the solution is a much more balanced approach, using crop rotation in combination with natural predators.

The best solution will be to have a cocktail of different strategies and jump around from one to the other to keep the pests off balance.

Q. Have other studies confirmed that the green revolution did not produce disparity in wealth and unemployment?

A. Yes, I think a lot of the early studies were very critical, and what I think they have recognized is that they drew their conclusions too soon.

But it was only after three or four years that small farmers (began to) take advantage of this, when the government began to extend credit to small farmers. By the end of the decade, everyone had adopted it. Some critics have turned around completely and now think it's not such a bad idea.



Above, tilling the dry earth of North Arcot; At right, box shows study area.



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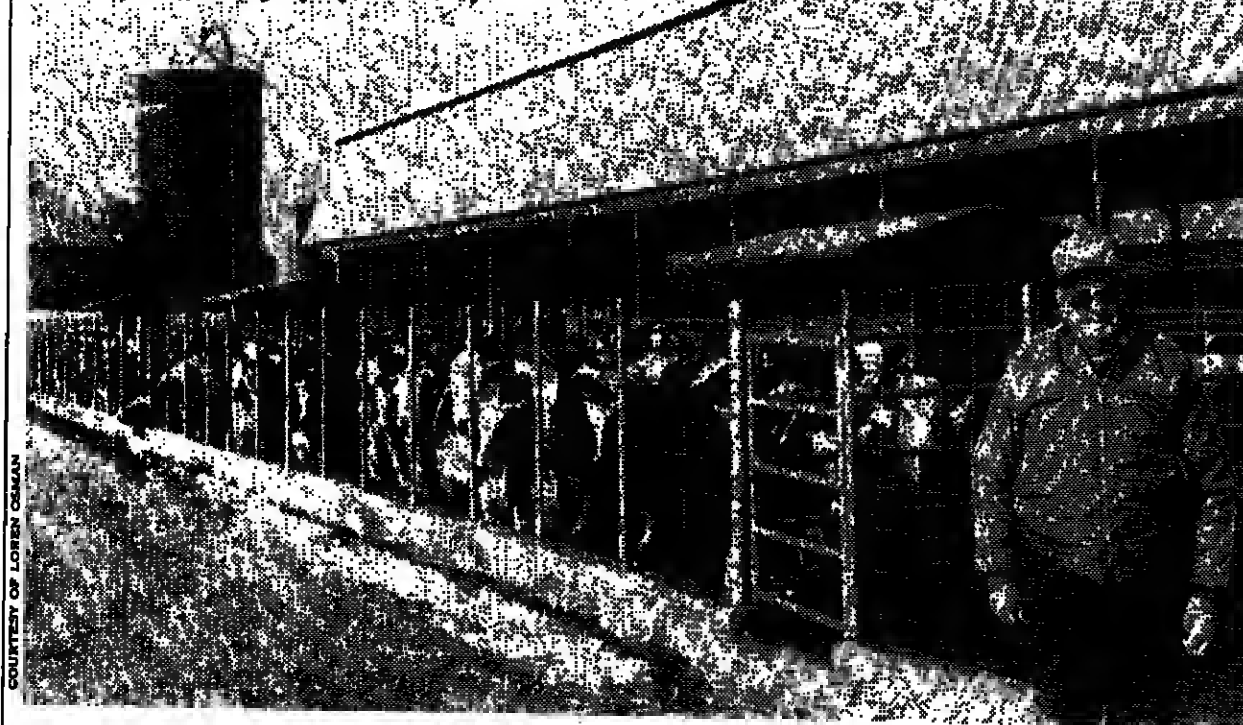
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There are fewer of them than ever before, but we will never be able to do without them. The life of a farmer is unappreciated and certainly under-reported. The following dispatches focus on farmers from three distinct cultures, but one common heritage: the uncertainty of life on the farm.



Miller and friends in the rich farmland of Wisconsin.

Turning milk into dollars

By LOREN H. OSMAN
in Milwaukee, USA

KICK THE EARTH on the 1,650 rolling acres on the farms of R.G. Miller & Sons and you turn up not only the rich loam that produces abundant crops, but also the inner strengths of a family in its fifth generation on America's heartland.

Today there is a crisis in this huge dairy operation: the carousel on which 30 cows ride at a time to be milked broke down shortly after its 5:30 a.m. start-up and it was, upon before the electric transformer was replaced and overloaded udders could be relieved. So questions bring curt responses from these businessmen in overalls, but that doesn't mean they don't think about world problems. "People are hungry," says 67-year-old Reinold Miller. "What's needed is better distribution."

With his brother Gerald, 64, Reinold is patriarch of the US\$2 million enterprise involving their five sons and a son-in-law, with spouses and 20 grandchildren: "mostly girls," says grandpa wryly. Farm tasks are varied and some of the family specialize, for example, in milking or feeding. But in the spring, all climb aboard the eight tractors and share in the joyous expectancy of planting a new crop.

The farms are a few miles from Columbus in south central Wisconsin. Not surprisingly in a state settled by German, Scandinavian and Polish immigrants, the Miller-family roots are in Europe. Jacob Mueller left Bavaria in 1875 and settled on 80 acres acquired from a US government eager to develop the vast western plains. Two sons took over in due time, and as the family grew, so did the farm. Another 80 acres were added in 1900, and in 1932 the Millers boosted their income by buying the heavier-

Loren H. Osman, a former award-winning farm-beat reporter for *The Milwaukee Journal*, is a freelance journalist based in Shorewood, Wisconsin.

producing holstein breed of cows. The herd grew from 18 in 1936 to 64 in 1946 when Reinold and Gerald took over and added another 120 acres to the farm.

Mechanization made it possible to milk more cows and the herd continued to grow. Today, three men milk 272 cows in three hours on the \$400,000 carousel. Another 57 are machine-milked by what are considered obsolete methods. With the holsteins producing an average of 18,300 pounds a year—one-third more than the average in Wisconsin—the stream of milk has foamed higher, and every day's refrigerated tanker truck takes away about 14,000 pounds of milk for processing.

More cows require more land on which to grow feed, and the Millers went on a spree in the 1980s, buying and renting until they had 1,500 acres under cultivation (1,000 acres of corn and 400 of alfalfa and some soybean). Since 1980 they have been adding glass-lined silos with mechanical uploaders. Now there is a forest of them, with bigger units costing upwards of \$50,000.

Strong believers in self-sufficiency, the Millers keep all the offspring from the herd. In a barn with a translucent plastic roof and curtains that can be raised and lowered to keep out cold winds and let in cooling breezes, male and female calves start their lives in neat individual shelters. Heifers are matured until mating time. Young bulls are castrated and at 300 pounds begin a happy march through six pens, eating cafeteria-style in each to gain 150 pounds before moving on. At the end of the line, they weigh 1,200 pounds and are shipped off to become lean hamburgers at McDonald's or other fast-food restaurants.

Like all dairymen, the Millers slugged through tough times in 1990-'91. Milk prices slumped to \$10 per 100 pounds (about 12 gallons, or 45 liters). Now, with prices rising above \$13, they calculate they are squeezing out about a 5 percent net profit. But a recent truckload of 38 hamburgers-on-the-hoof brought

a disappointing \$7,200 less than a similar shipment a year ago. Last year's corn harvest brought a surplus of 75,000 bushels over farm needs. The market price was \$2.39 a bushel, less than the \$2.75 they could have received under the federal support program. But to obtain the support they would have had to take 5 percent of their corn land (50 acres) out of production, and they didn't want to do that because they will need the land to feed yet more cows in the future.

To justify investment in the carousel milker, the Millers are planning a second 200-cow barn where animals can be rested, fed and moved to the machine. With 400 cows, ultimately, they will need another 3,000-gallon cooler tank.

John Miller has succeeded his father, Reinold, as president of the corporation in which eight family units hold stock, and high-tech change continues on the farm:

- A \$20,000 gadget called a TMR (for total mixed ration) will soon blend protein concentrate, haylage, vitamins and minerals into a chow that outwits picky cows and will increase milk production by 2,000 pounds per cow per year;
- A digital scale in the milking parlor flashes each cow's output, and the records are computerized. Inseminators impregnate cows with semen from the recommended choice of bulls, based on the cow's body type and production;
- President Miller is considering buying a manure digester to produce methanol worth \$40 a day for the generation of electricity;
- As the need for haylage outgrows the silos, the cost-conscious Millers turn to a cheaper alternative, giant plastic bags holding 200 tons each.

Feeding the hungry might strengthen the demand for grain and raise its price, but for the Millers that would be a mixed blessing: higher revenue from their surplus corn might or might not offset the higher cost of feeding their cows—and milk prices are still unstable. ♦

Red tape harvest for EC farmers

By CONRAD DE AENLLE
in Zoetermeer, the Netherlands

GERARD DE GROOT has been doing well, but now he is feeling the squeeze. The costs of running his small Dutch dairy farm are going up and the price he gets for the milk produced by 50 cows is going down. A cheerful, hospitable man with a large, comfortable house, he and his father run a farm started by his grandfather—but maybe not for much longer.

After rising to 43 cents (US) a liter in 1988, milk has fallen to 40 cents. Including a fair wage for his labor, that's just about what it costs to produce the milk. "We've had three or four years in which we've made good money, but it's going down a bit," says De Groot in an interview on his farm, a 20-minute drive east from The Hague. "Milk profits are going down and our costs are going up every year."

One factor driving costs higher is a recent piece of environmental legislation. Holland, it seems, has too much dung: in fact, there are more pigs and cows than the 15 million people, giving the country the most densely packed farmland and worst pollution in the European Community. So, De Groot has to do his share in dealing with the problem by constructing a basin to catch the manure runoff. If he did not provide the basin, the government might force him to cut back on his livestock, which, in addition to dairy

cows, includes 45 to 50 head of beef cattle. He's philosophical about the expense, noting that it is worse for pig farmers.

De Groot has had to cut back, too, on milk production to meet a government quota which aims to keep milk supplies low, prices high, and farmers in business. He reckons that since 1984, production on his 50-acre farm has fallen roughly 17 percent, from 290,000 liters to 240,000, the average for Dutch dairy farms.

"The quota system has been very profitable for us," says De Groot. According to the Agriculture Ministry, the average income of small Dutch dairy farms rose from US\$26,000 in 1985 to \$44,000 in 1989, giving Dutch farmers the highest incomes among the 12 EC countries.

Without the quota system, De Groot says, his farm might not have survived. Less developed countries can produce milk at about half the cost in Europe. "Our costs are too high to compete with, say, New Zealand," says De Groot. "We have to protect our market." It is this way of thinking that has stalled world trade talks in which the US is calling for drastic cuts in subsidies. Ministers from several European countries, notably France and Germany, are clinging to their right to protect farmers, particularly with subsidies. Agriculture programs will cost EC taxpayers more than \$40 billion this year.

Now Holland will be paying for the first time into the European pool of subsidies, so the government has joined Britain on the anti-subsidy side of the argument among EC ministers. And some farmers, particularly those growing grain and potatoes, are angry. Grain prices were falling for years, before catching an updraft in recent months, and potato growers do not benefit from price supports. Indeed, falling grain prices cut the price of feeding De Groot's dairy herd from \$71 a ton to \$33, offsetting the rise in other expenses.

De Groot acknowledges that protection for farmers is an emotionally charged issue now. After all, why should farmers be kept in business when other enterprises are allowed to fail? "It's a difficult question," he agrees, but adds, "If we quit, and if one year from now a lot of farmers quit, then one day you can have too little food to feed your people."

But now European farmers are feeding not only their own people, but many others, too. In 1955, 56 percent of milk produced in the EC was exported; for De Groot and the other Dutch farmers, the figure was 70 percent. There are some aspects of the system, however, that even those in the industry concede to be a little odd, to say the least. "The result of quotas is that we have to import milk to make cheese," (because imported milk is cheaper) notes Ton van der Kroon, an official of an industry group funded by 45 agricultural organizations, including the farmers' union. "It's ridiculous, of course."

Despite government support, De Groot is uncertain where he will be in a few years. He will still be a farmer, he insists, but maybe not on the same farm. The farm will have to grow or disappear. "For sure, in 10 years we should be twice as big as we are now to stay in business," he explains. "We have to invest in new kinds of technology."

Meanwhile, The Hague is drawing closer and the road through Zoetermeer is already lined with new apartment complexes. "There's a lot of pressure from the cities to buy the land," he says. The value of his land, without the two houses, is about \$540,000. If developers come knocking, he may take the money and move to Friesland, in the north of Holland, where land is half the price—or even to Denmark. "I'll stay here four or five years," he says, "then look again and see what to do." ♦

Conrad de Aenlle is a Paris-based writer who specializes on economic affairs.

Left out in the cold politics of Peru

By PILAR DAVILA
in Lima, Peru

DON JUAN ORIHUELA counts himself among Peru's luckier farmers. His farm is on the coast some 120 south of Lima in the Cañete Valley, which is seldom invaded by the *Sendero Luminoso* (Shining Path), the notorious Maoist revolutionaries who have been known to murder farmers and steal crops and cattle.

Nonetheless, his life as a farmer is far from worry-free. In the last presidential election (1990), Orihuela and the majority of the country's small farmers voted for Alberto Fujimori, who won. They identified with the candidate, an agricultural engineer who promised to promote agricultural development and, in particular, to help small farmers. But according to Orihuela, many now feel "betrayed and left out in the cold by the government"—a government which, according to Orihuela, prefers to promote agro-industry crops for export (asparagus, mangoes) rather than continue to subsidize and protect the small farmer.

The cost of production for Orihuela and other farmers has tripled in the past year, since state subsidies were eliminated, yet middlemen continue to buy their produce at the same prices.

Orihuela sees the future of his family farm as uncertain. And with three children already in college, he worries that his other children may also drift away from the farm since, like most youngsters living in the countryside, they dream about getting good jobs in the city. But the desire for a better life away from the rigors of a difficult farm life was what brought Orihuela to the Cañete Valley. He migrated to the coastal area from a village in the central Junin district, in 1950, when he was 15, in the hope of leaving rural poverty behind. The Peruvian coast has been a magnet for people from the Andean and Amazonian regions. While in 1940 just 28 percent of Peru's population lived along the coast, this area is now home to more than half the nation.

When he first arrived in Cañete, he worked on a 500-hectare ranch that produced cotton, corn, sweet potatoes and cabbage. In 1973, the ranch workers were given most of that land as part of the 1969 land reform sponsored by General Juan Velasco, then Peru's ruler, under the motto, "The land belongs to those who work it." With 400 hectares and 150 workers-turned-partners, they formed the *Cooperativa Agraria de Producción Tercer Mundo*, headed by Orihuela.

Ten years later, in 1984, they decided to subdivide the cooperative's land into private plots. "Many thought now that they owned the land they didn't have to work as when they were laborers. That's why we decided to subdivide, because it was not fair to the cooperative that not everyone worked equally," says Orihuela. Subdividing became a common occur-

rence in coastal agrarian cooperatives that were originally formed through land reform.

During his childhood in central Peru, Orihuela's family planted subsistence crops like potatoes, corn and barley without knowledge of modern agriculture techniques. In Cañete, he combines traditional farming with modern machinery to produce five hectares of cotton and one of sweet potatoes. Orihuela has been working this land for 42 years.

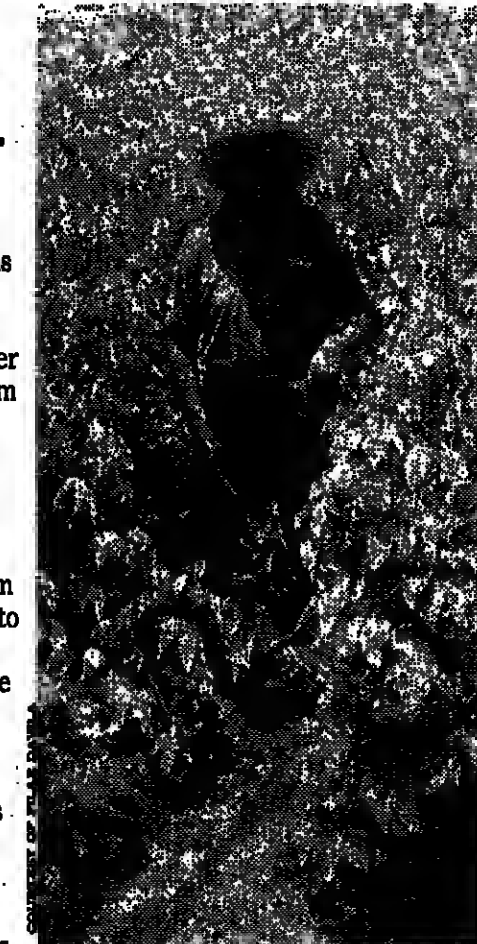
Today, he works about 10 hours a day, almost the same as when he was a ranch worker, but he has gained the satisfaction that comes from working his own land. With his wife and three of his sons he leaves his house at dawn each morning for the one kilometer walk to the farm. They perform the majority of the work themselves, hiring extra laborers only for planting and harvesting. He has access to technical advice for the use of improved seeds, fertilizers and methods to combat pests and diseases, and rents three tractors which were purchased by the agricultural cooperative. Yet he irrigates his land with the methods he learned from his father. With the combination of these techniques he is able to obtain some 250 kilos of cotton per hectare, the average for the Cañete Valley.

The greatest problem shared by Orihuela and the other farmers of the region is marketing their products. Middlemen pay farmers about US\$17 per 50 kilos of raw cotton—about half what the products bring in the capital. And when farmers have tried to take their products directly to Lima, they have been unable to sell them because buyers deal only with middlemen, a convenient arrangement the two have worked out. And farmers are unable to hold out for better prices because by doing so they would not have enough money for the next planting season.

To temper the tough financial situation, the Orihuelas have taken to selling half their cotton crop to textile mills as fibers, which is twice as profitable (\$36 per 50 kilos) as selling raw cotton. With that, they manage to finance their new crops. Yet this is a much more complicated and lengthy process than selling raw cotton, and the farmers often do not receive payment from the textile mills for months after a deal has been struck.

Another major problem affecting small farmers is the lack of agricultural credit, a result of the Agricultural Bank's financial difficulties. The state bank, created to grant loans to farmers at very low interest rates, was plunged into a disastrous financial situation by former president Alan García's administration, which granted interest-free loans that were seldom repaid. As a result, small farmers have no access to credit, since they cannot afford the high interest rates charged by private banks when—and if—they agree to a loan. In Orihuela's case, he does not owe money to the Agricultural Bank, but nevertheless has been unable to get credit from private banks. ♦

Pilar Davila is editor in chief of *Apoyo* Publications and a researcher at the Instituto Apoyo in Lima.



Orihuela: Working the land for 42 years.

SPOTLIGHT ON AGRICULTURE

Make food—not war

Ethiopia full of potential and problems

BY MELAKU LAKEW
in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

WHY ARE PEOPLE starving in the Horn of Africa, the region comprising the world's poorest countries, Ethiopia, Sudan, Somalia and Djibouti? Of the 82 million population, the vast majority of

whom are peasant farmers, more than two million have died and eight million have been displaced since 1985. Is there hope for the future?

Civil wars raging through the region have destroyed crops and markets in which farmers could have sold surplus production. Drought has ravaged the areas, and peasant farmers and their fam-

ilies struggle to produce enough food for their own subsistence. Essential services such as primary education and health care have broken down, civil rights are abused, and the environment has been damaged.

In Ethiopia, the former government's restrictions on migration, labor and trade, and the forcible relocation of people to protected villages for political and economic reasons, killed incentives for peasants to increase agricultural productivity. Punitive high quotas for the delivery of staple grains to the agricultural marketing corporations and heavy taxation also contributed to the disappointing performance of agriculture.

While population in the region has grown by 3 percent in 20 years, food production has increased by only 1 percent, and another 15 million people are now threatened by disaster.

Hope lies in a return to peace and stability and in progress toward democracy, all of which are essential to the growth of agriculture. Popular participation in political and economic spheres will ensure that efforts to boost production are based on what the people perceive to be their real needs.

The end of the Cold War rivalry between the US and the Soviet Union is reducing the supply of military aid that has exacerbated conflicts, but so far Ethiopia is the only country in the region that seems close to achieving stability.

A rigidly socialist government was overthrown last July and the major opposition group has formed a transitional government committed to improving the welfare of rural people. The representative council has adopted a charter of basic principles to guide the government in promoting fundamental human rights, and free elections are to be held within two and a half years.

When stability prevails, the market will be the best channel for disseminating consumer goods for peasant households, from metal stoves, corn shellers and hand grinders to improved farm tools. But even this will not achieve food self-sufficiency unless there is a network of support services.

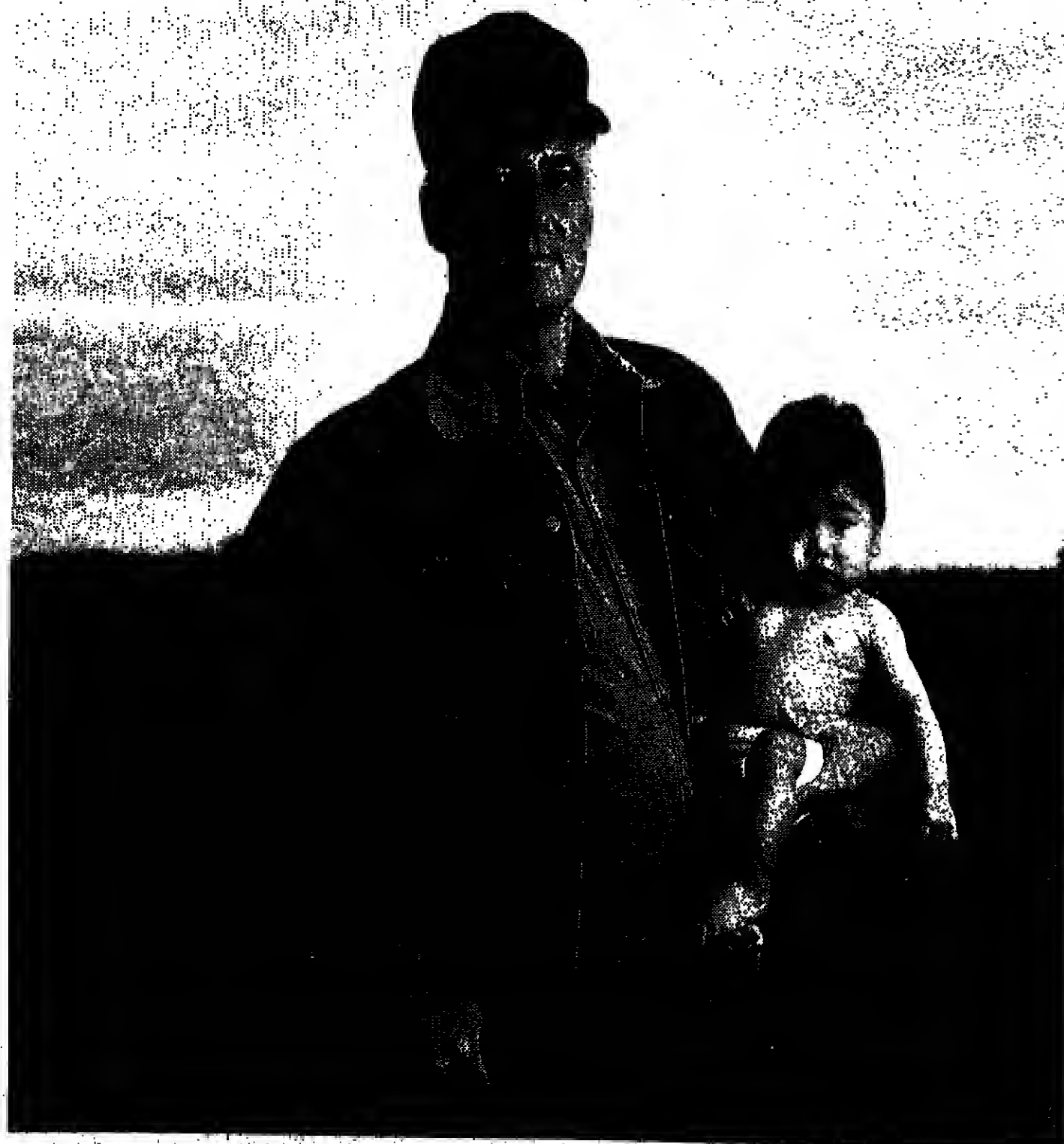
Ethiopia has considerable potential. It is three-and-a-half times the size of Japan and close to 65 percent is suitable for cultivation or use as pasture. Its livestock population is the largest in Africa and tenth in the world. Small farms account for most of the food production, and if a democratic government responds to people's needs there will be incentives for peasants to invest in increasing productivity. If the current democratization process continues, the estimated population of 50 million people have a good chance to achieve food self-sufficiency.

The Republic of Somalia was formed in 1960 by merging the former Italian and British Somali lands. But by last year the central government had disintegrated, and the north was in the hands of the Somali National Movement while the south was controlled by the United Somali Congress. A split within the Congress flared into a new round of war, and the toll of war is increasingly affecting all economic sectors, including agriculture.

Sudan is almost as big as Western Europe, but for eight years the People's Liberation Movement based in the south, where the people are Christians and followers of traditional African faiths, has been waging war against the central government which is dominated by Moslems.

In both countries conditions necessary to promote agricultural production seem far away and they are going to be dependent on food aid for a long time.

Melaku Lakew is an Ethiopian economist and a professor at Stockton State College in Pomona, New Jersey, USA.



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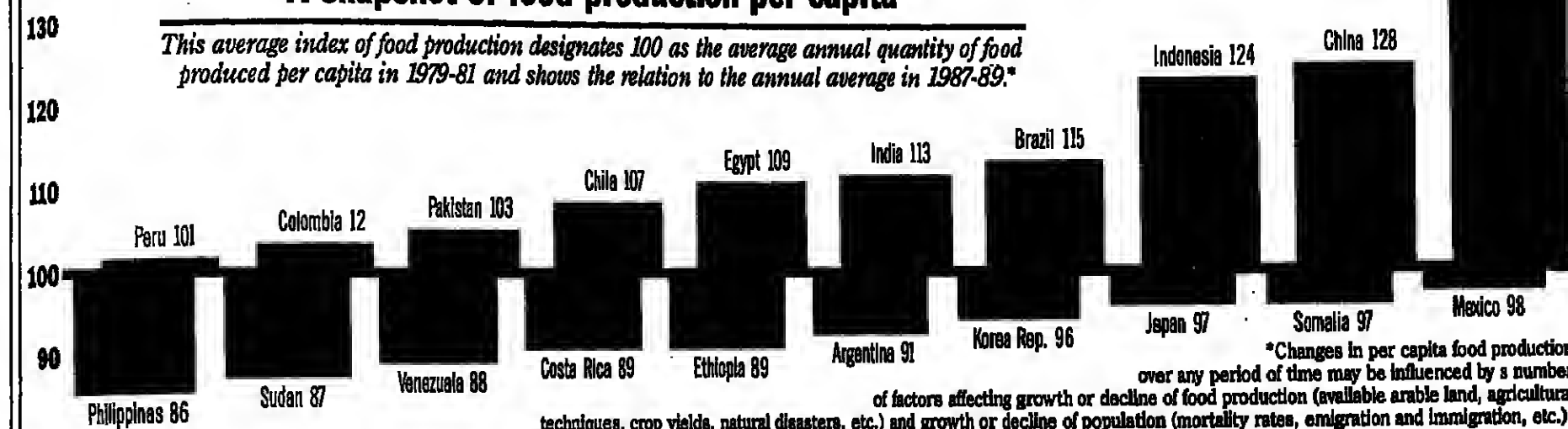


SUPPLYING THE WORLD

SPOTLIGHT ON AGRICULTURE

A snapshot of food production per capita

This average index of food production designates 100 as the average annual quantity of food produced per capita in 1979-81 and shows the relation to the annual average in 1987-89.*



A sweet addiction

Cuba's single-crop curse

BY MIGUEL ALEJANDRO FIGUERAS
in Havana, Cuba

IN 1895, Jose Antonio de Dios Garcia left the family cattle farm in central Cuba and went off to fight for national independence in the war against Spanish colonial rule. The war was won after three years, but when Jose Antonio returned home, he found that the farm, like those of his neighbors, had been devastated. All the cattle and crops were gone.

The story of what has happened since to the family and the land illustrates the transformation of agriculture in many tropical countries and the dangers of relying too heavily on a single crop. In many countries, single-crop economies have proven to be vulnerable to many outside influences: to price fluctuations in the world market; to the emergence of new artificial or natural substitutes for natural products (synthetic rubber, artificial fibers and sweeteners, high-fructose corn syrup, etc.) as well as to foreign competition.

In the case of Cuba, the US came late into the war but emerged the big winner. A US military governor ruled the country for several years, and the American Trinidad Sugar Company, backed by the American Refining Corporation monopoly, bought up farmland at bargain prices and turned it into sugar-growing estates, creating a single-crop economy.

This was typical of what was happening in many tropical countries. With the industrial revolution and urbanization in Europe, populations grew fast and the demand for food and agricultural raw materials outstripped the local supply. First, the large estates in Middle and Eastern Europe were broken up and the prairie lands of North America and Australia put under cultivation. Then, early in this century, huge tracts of tropical land were brought into use. British and

US financial interests formed alliances with local elites and swept away the indigenous agriculture to specialize in one crop. That was the pattern from the Caribbean to Brazil, Central America, parts of Africa and Asia. And Japan, then emerging as an industrial country, obtained more agricultural land by annexing Korea and Formosa (now Taiwan).

World production of sugar, cotton, tea and tobacco increased remarkably, and coffee, cocoa, pineapples and bananas, which had been luxuries, became popular in the developed countries. Manufacturing industries created a demand for scarce or even new agricultural materials.

Local farmers became low-wage laborers on the single-crop estates, and that was the fate of Jose Antonio in Cuba, which became the sugar bowl of the US. During World War I there was a sugar boom, but by the 1920s production in Cuba was stagnating because the US had decided to protect its own sugar industry. The world depression of the 1930s made things even worse for Cuba and the problems of depending on a single crop, sugar, became apparent: the Gross National Product dropped by half.

Conditions improved a little when sugar prices increased during World War II and trade unions for agricultural and industrial sugar workers grew stronger. But in the 1950s there was a new slump. By then, Jose Antonio's first grandson, Juan, and his wife (whose parents had immigrated from Spain) had seven children, two of whom died before the age of three. A sugarcane cutter like his grandfather and father before him, Juan was employed only during the harvest season, and the family survived on credit provided by the owner of the grocery store. Juan's wife eventually died of tuberculosis.

History seemed to be repeating itself in 1950 when the eldest son, Manuel, went off to join the rebel army, but with the victory of the revolution, things started to get better for the family. The vast sugarcane estates became state enterprises, and 100,000 peasants who had leased their land became the owners.

Modern techniques were introduced, including fertilizers, mechanical harvesters, and higher-yielding sugarcane. Juan and his sons were taught to read and write, and his grandsons attended the newly built schools.

But the US, which had opposed agrarian reform, retaliated by imposing an economic embargo on Cuba—which meant that it would not buy Cuban sugar. In response, Cuba quickly cut sugar production by one-third and planted other crops. But the economy which had been run on a single crop for half-a-century could not be changed so rapidly without loss of income earned by exports. And when new markets for sugar opened as

Cuba's established relations with other communist bloc countries, it was necessary once again to expand production.

As the years went by, the state enterprise for which Juan worked gradually increased sugarcane production. Sugar is still the major export, but Cuba is gradually getting away from dependence on one crop, and its new Food Program seeks to make the country self-sufficient in food.

Today, Juan is 65 and retired. His pension is similar to that of urban workers, and in place of his old hut, he lives in a concrete house with electricity. He receives free health services and his grandsons are university students. ♦

NAFTA: NOW OR NEVER?

A special, 12-page edition of *The WorldPaper* examines the arguments for and against a North American Free Trade Agreement in the US, Mexico and Canada as the day of decision draws nearer. It suggests that a NAFTA could lead the take-off of other Latin American economies.

Associate Editor Anthony Westell, a Canadian journalist, cites the views of experts from the three countries in his analysis of:

- Why Canadians Fear Free Trade
- The Revolution in Mexican Attitudes
- The Battle in the US Congress

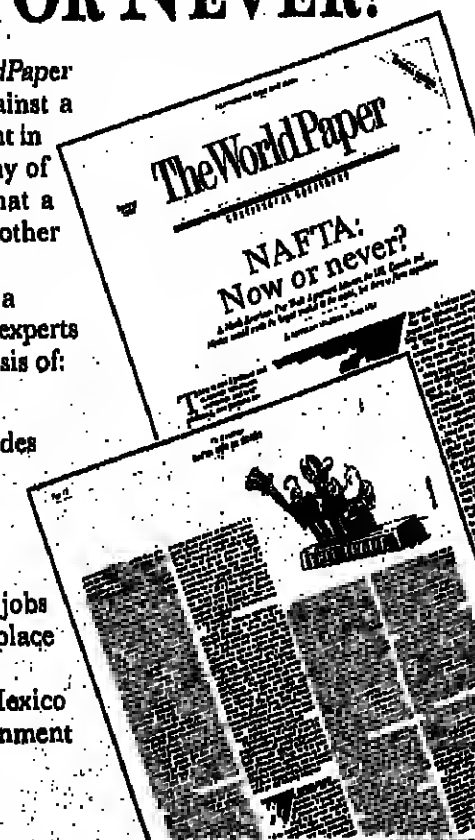
He deals with the hotly-debated questions:

- Will free trade cost manufacturing jobs in Canada and the US—and displace farmers in Mexico?
- Will increased production in Mexico worsen the already polluted environment on the US-Mexico border?

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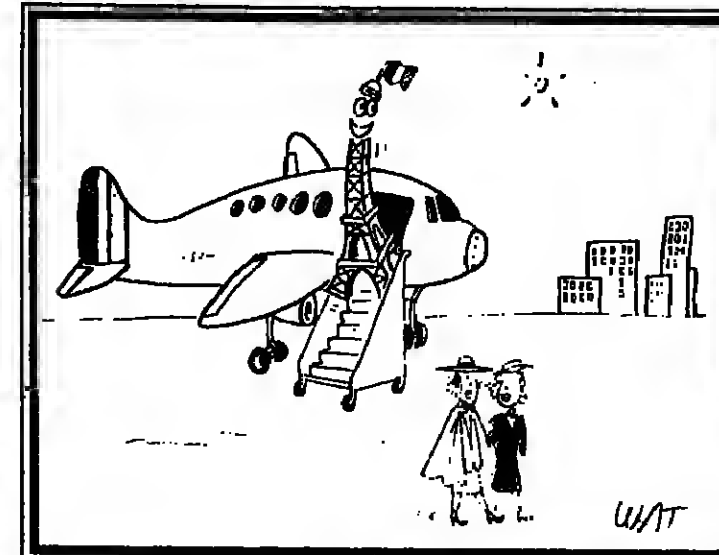
United Nations

30 APRIL 1992

THE STAR 15

Le Jourdain

Section française du Star



Entretien avec Noël Favrelière L'esprit français existe, je l'ai rencontré

A quelques jours de la Semaine française (9 au 17 mai) à l'hôtel Intercontinental Jordan, le directeur du Centre culturel français accorde une interview sans concession au "Jourdain". Tout ce que vous avez toujours voulu savoir sur la France sans jamais oser le demander

Le Jourdain: Quelle est votre définition du "Français"? Je veux dire le personnage?

Noël Favrelière: Il n'y a pas une définition du "Français"... Chacun a la sienne. Et demander à un "Français" ce qu'il en pense, c'est, comme d'habitude, un de nos auteurs, l'inciter à badiner avec sa propre vanité. Alors badinons...

Cette définition a évolué et continue d'évoluer avec le temps et avec l'histoire. Quand nous étions encore gaulois, les romains nous jugeaient sauvages et même fous, ce qui faisait de nous les plus prisés des gladiateurs.

Bien plus tard, Descartes a fait de nous de soi-disant "raisonneurs". Car ce sont avant tout nos auteurs qui par leurs écrits forment à l'étranger une idée du "Français".

Plus tard encore, Voltaire, qui pensait (ou faisait semblant de penser pour provoquer) que le génie français était perdu, faisait de nous des singes qui se seraient mis à imiter des bœufs. Ce qui, moi, me rassure, car après Voltaire, le génie français a tout de même brillé en de maintes occasions.

Et si aujourd'hui nous sommes encore (certains d'entre nous) des singes qui imitent les bœufs en buvant du Coca-Cola et en acceptant les "euro-dismalseries" sur notre sol, on peut cependant espérer que cela n'empêchera pas l'esprit français de briller encore.

L.J.: Cet Esprit français, l'avez-vous rencontré?

Noël Favrelière: Cet "apparent désordre prémédité", bien sûr que je l'ai rencontré. Et n'en suis-je pas un peu fier? Quand je lis Molière, Diderot, Proust et beaucoup d'autres encore? Quand je visite le Louvre et que je m'arrête devant Watteau, Delacroix, Monet, Braque et beaucoup d'autres encore? Quand je vois sur un "Concorde", ou que je roule en



Noël Favrelière

L.J.: Donner une idée de la France en une semaine, n'est-ce pas une mission impossible?

Noël Favrelière: Absolument! Mais Napoléon l'a dit: "Impossible n'est pas français". Précisons cependant qu'il s'agit avant tout

Noël Favrelière: Il s'agit de modèles "à l'étranger" qui sont commercialisés par le grand magasin "Le Printemps" de Paris et qui seront présentés par des mannequins venus de France. Sachez aussi que les griffes portent

sans vin serait un printemps sans soleil, nous aurons du Bourgogne, du Bordeaux et des vins tout aussi fameux.

L.J.: Quoi d'autre en plus de la mode et de la cuisine?

Noël Favrelière: De la musique grâce à un excellent pianiste, Philippe Carment, qui chaque soir créera un fonds sonore en harmonie avec l'espace et ce qui s'y passera.

Toujours dans l'hôtel Intercontinental, nous pourrions voir deux expositions. Une première faite d'un choix de photographies sur la Jordanie signées par deux photographes français: Bernard Guillot et Jean-Philippe Reverdot. Une seconde faite de dessins de bédésistes qui montrent l'idée qu'ils se font de la France. Attention, ce sera un peu fou... et tant mieux.

L.J.: Ce sera votre première semaine française. Comptez-vous récidiver?

Noël Favrelière: Que celle-ci se passe bien et plus tard nous verrons. Et pour finir sagement cette interview, ce qui ne me ressemble pas, disons qu'on ne doit pas abuser des bonnes choses. ■

Propos recueillis par Francis Maszyer

"Quant au vin, car un bon repas sans vin serait un printemps sans soleil, nous aurons du Bourgogne, du Bordeaux et des vins tout aussi fameux."

d'une semaine "culturelle" centrée principalement sur la mode et la gastronomie, qui seront à l'honneur à l'hôtel Intercontinental entre le 9 et le 17 mai.

L.J.: Mais en tant que directeur de Centre culturel, n'êtes-vous pas plutôt spécialiste de langue et de littérature?

Noël Favrelière: Certes, mais je me dois aussi de présenter la culture française en général. La gastronomie, pour prendre un exemple, tient à l'histoire naturelle, à la physique, à la chimie, au commerce, à l'économie politique, et bien sûr aux goûts et aux modes.

L.J.: A propos de mode, y aura-t-il de quoi nous éblouir?

les signatures de Courrèges, Louis Féraud, Guy Laroche, Kenzo... pour ne citer que ces quelques créateurs parisiens.

L.J.: Et la gastronomie? Quels "gâteaux"? Quels vins?

Noël Favrelière: Vous ne serez pas déçus! Les recettes seront bien de chez nous. Pour commencer: magret de canard, consommé aux raviolis d'escargots, paupiettes de saumon... Et pour respecter la meilleure tradition et afin de "sépurer" le palais, pour passer du poisson à la viande, sera servi un sorbet: citron à l'estragon, arrosé au Champagne. On continuera avec un fameux tournedos "Rossini", des fromages, des desserts... Quant au vin, car un bon repas

SPECIAL SEMAINE
FRANÇAISE
9 — 17 Mai

Suivez le guide!

LA MODE
09/05 à 20h30, Dîner-Gala avec défilé de mannequins venus de France. Les modèles présentés sont signés par une pléiade de créateurs: Courrèges, Louis Féraud, Guy Laroche, Kenzo, Peggy Moren, Jeanne Europe, Pronuptia, France Petrovitch...

10/05 à 16h00, Défilé au cours d'un thé.

LA GASTRONOMIE
Du 9 au 17 mai. Chaque soir, le chef Engelberg Gmsriegler, son second Charles Vasseur et le pâtissier d'Air-France Laurent Chevy prépareront des spécialités françaises.

LA MUSIQUE
Du 09 au 17 mai. Chaque soir, le talentueux pianiste Philippe Carment vous enverra pendant le dîner avec un répertoire de musiques, pleines de charme et de swing.

LES EXPOSITIONS
Du 09 au 17 mai. Double regard sur la Jordanie. Des photographies de Bernard Guillot et de Jean-Philippe Reverdot. Les deux célèbres photographes exposent leurs vues de Jordanie.

BD:
Dix auteurs de bandes dessinées nous font découvrir "leur France". Le résultat est parfois un peu fou. Comme la BD.

Tissus de France

A la mode de chez nous

Les nouvelles tendances printemps-été 1992 sur un plateau après le dîner de gala. Une des principales vitrines de la France vous sera servie à l'Intercontinental. Pour le plaisir des yeux!

"LA MODE est un tyran, des moriels respecté. Digne enfant du goût et de la nouveauté... La suivre est un devoir, la fuir un ridicule." Ainsi écrivait en son temps le Cardinal de Bernis. Quelques vers d'une valeur toujours actuelle. Avec cependant un plus: Haute-Couture rime désormais avec culture. Avec un grand C. Elle a donc tout naturellement trouvé sa place au cœur de la "Semaine Culturelle Française" qui se tiendra à l'hôtel Intercontinental-Jordan du 9 au 17 mai 1992. Deux temps forts à retenir dans ce domaine: le dîner-gala du 9 mai qui sera agrémenté d'un défilé de mannequins venus de France, et le "tea-time" du lendemain après-midi, le 10 mai, prétexte à un second défilé. La seconde sortie de ces beautés sculpturales, qui feront pâlir de jalousie bien des spectatrices.

Grands classiques

Pour ces deux grands rendez-vous organisés par les magasins Le Printemps, de nombreux créateurs français ont répondu à l'appel. De grands noms mais aussi de jeunes couturiers sur la pente ascendante. Au total quinze différentes "maisons" présenteront leurs nouvelles collections printemps-été 1992. Parmi les grands classiques de la Haute-Couture française, la maison Dior, sous la direction de Gianfranco Ferré depuis 1989, sera bien évidemment à l'honneur. Christian Dior, qui à la fin des années 1950 figurait parmi les cinq personnes les plus connues au monde avec Staline et Gandhi, a été l'un des principaux ambassadeurs de la mode française à l'étranger. Depuis sa disparition en 1957, l'inventeur du "New Look" a inspiré avec bonheur ses différents successeurs.

Beauté et luxe des tissus, classique des modèles et richesse des accessoires charmeront sans peine l'assistance. Autre grand nom du prêt-à-porter et de la Haute Couture français et directeur de la maison Dior de 1958 à 1960, Yves Saint Laurent sera bien évidemment l'un des plus attendus. Celui qui était dès 1972 décrit comme le plus grand couturier du monde, nous présentera comme à son habitude une collection haute en couleur agrémentée de nombreux accessoires. Du classique chic qui ne se refuse cependant pas quelque fantaisie.

André Courrèges, surnommé "le Corbusier de la Couture" tiendra une place de choix aux côtés de ses illustres confrères. Fidèle aux teintes pastel depuis le début de sa carrière (il est lui-même toujours habillé de combinaisons rose ou ciel), il nous pro-

posera lors du défilé de mode de la "Semaine Culturelle Française" une série de modèles allant du blanc au marine en passant par le jaune, l'orange, le vert et le rose. Le tout dans des matières toniques comme le vinyle et le lycra, ou classiques comme le coton vichy et l'organdi. Les grandes vedettes de la nouvelle collection de Courrèges: la ligne trapèze lancée par Yves Saint Laurent à la fin des années 1950, la capuche et le pantalon court ou cycliste. Une ligne jeune et confortable pour être dans le vent. Guy Laroche fait également partie des grands classiques de la Haute-Couture présents au défilé. Sous le titre séduisant, "Un été fraîchement acidulé", sa collection se divise en trois temps:

des petites robes "charming" d'esprit "garden-party" à la "Dame de Shanghai", superbe fourreau de crêpe rouge laque dont Guy Laroche a le secret.

Jeunes loups

Ces grands noms de la Haute-Couture et du prêt-à-porter français sont talonnés par

première collection en 1979 et entame dès lors un parcours sans embûches. Popy Moroni aime le noir et le blanc qu'elle marie ou sépare avec beaucoup d'imagination. Ses origines italiennes lui insufflent le style de la "Commedia dell'arte". Résultat: des ensembles de velours et de satin, des colletteries, des costumes d'arlequin... Popy Moroni aime utiliser les oppositions: dans les formes géométriques, les couleurs, les matières. De la véritable création, du grand spectacle qui devrait ravir un parterre d'amateurs.

Autre grand moment du défilé à ne manquer sous aucun prétexte: les créations de Jean-Paul Gaultier, jeune créateur leader sans conteste des années 80. Bourré de talent pour certains, exhibitionniste (le mot est facile) pour d'autres, J-P Gaultier ne fait pas dans la dentelle. Une fois encore, il nous proposera un style audacieux et détonnant, inspiré du punk où le vinyle tient une place de choix.

Le créateur japonais Kenzo, premier japonais à oser se lancer dans le monde de la mode française, présentera une collection printemps-été 1992 placée sous le signe d'une nature exubérante et colorée. Il reste fidèle au look masculin-féminin qui lui est cher tout en utilisant de nouvelles silhouettes orientales. Les matières employées cette année, Kenzo les a souhaitées naturelles, seules ou en duo: soie, coton, lin, laine vierge fine. Avec toujours la présence du stretch dont personne ne semble vouloir se passer. Pour lui aussi, priorité est donnée aux couleurs acidulées, avec de superbes imprimés fleurs, fruits ou oiseaux.

Louis Réraud, jeune Europe, Tehen, L'Espagnol, Olivier Strelitz, Dornieul et France Petrovitch participeront également au défilé de la "Semaine Culturelle Française". Sans oublier la célèbre maison Pro-mptia, spécialiste de la robe de mariée, qui présentera en bouquet final ses plus belles créations dignes des Mille et Une Nuits.

Rendez-vous les 9 et 10 mai prochains à l'hôtel Intercontinental-Jordan. La mode, apparente à l'œil, démontrera à ceux qui n'en étaient pas encore convaincus, qu'elle mérite ses lettres de noblesse. Et son titre d'ambassadrice de la France dans le monde entier. ■

Michèle Rieux

L'EDITO

Synergies

LA SEMAINE prochaine à Amman, la France sera sur le devant de la scène. Une scène remplie de mannequins, de cuisiniers, de photographes, de dessinateurs et de musiciens. Un éventail, concentré sur une courte période, pour présenter différents aspects de la culture française.

Après, Amman s'ouvrira au tourisme italien. Demain, la capitale jordanienne accueillera sans doute des manifestations pour présenter les fleurs des cultures allemandes, anglaises, espagnoles...

Ainsi, cette Europe, dont on a tant parlé à Maastricht et qui divise l'échiquier politique français, est peut-être en train de se faire ailleurs, à l'extérieur des frontières.

C'est le cas en Jordanie. Car c'est justement dans ce petit pays, qui une fois de plus, donne la preuve de son hospitalité, qu'existe un projet déjà oviné pour la création d'un "Centre culturel européen". Celui-ci doit abriter les instituts allemand, espagnol, italien et bien sûr français. Il sera également ouvert à tous les autres pays de la CEE qui n'enseignent pas leurs langues en Jordanie, mais qui ont aussi une culture à faire connaître. Dans ce cadre, une bibliothèque commune rassemblerait les Européens.

Un tel projet n'empêchera pas chaque pays-membre de conserver son identité culturelle. Il s'agit de mettre des moyens en commun. Apparemment, il est exclu de couler tout le monde dans un même moule. Car, n'en déplaise à ses détracteurs, la richesse de l'Europe réside dans sa diversité.

Et si c'était à refaire, il faudrait recommencer par la culture, disait le prophète de l'Europe, Jean Monnet. La communauté a tout à tour été celle du charbon et de l'acier, avant de passer par Rome et de se retrouver à Maastricht. Bref, l'Europe de l'économie a toujours joué le rôle d'une locomotive traînant toutes sortes de wagons. Mêmes les plus réfractaires.

A l'heure où l'on débat sur la possible émergence d'une fédération européenne, il est impossible de fermer les yeux sur des domaines différents de la politique. Sur ces questions, les Européens seront également amenés à s'associer. A se compléter. Des transferts de souveraineté devront automatiquement se produire. Ce qui ne va pas manquer d'effrayer les partisans du repli sur soi. François Mitterrand abandonne dans le sens contraire, celui de l'ouverture. Il y a, quelques années déjà dans l'un de ses ouvrages: "L'Europe abstraite", forme géométrique dessinée sur un papier blanc, c'est la caricature qu'en donnent ses détracteurs. La véritable Europe a besoin des parties comme un corps vivant de chair et de sang. ■

Cuisine française

L'aile, la cuisse et le reste

L'un des temps forts de la semaine française: le dîner de gala. "Le Jourdain" est en mesure de vous livrer le menu en détail. Et en exclusivité! A table

"NOUS AVONS choisi un menu spécial pour faire découvrir la cuisine française" affirme Roland Parratte, nouveau chef de la restauration et du bar à l'hôtel Intercontinental-Jordan. Une idée de départ qui se concrétisera dans l'assiette dès le premier jour de la semaine, lors du dîner de gala, avec défilé de mode.

Ce soir là, près de 200 personnes, avides de connaître, l'une des meilleures cuisines du monde prononceront leur verdict. Pas question de laisser le moindre détail au hasard. Le menu doit être parfait. Il le sera, garantissent Roland Parratte et Charles Vasseur, sous-chef, qui ont un point commun: ils sont français.

Pre-mier argument et entrée en matière plutôt di-

petits raviolis d'escargots" vient prendre la relève. C'est une sorte de bouillon. Les escargots sont carolés dans une pâte. Les "pau-piettes de saumon au beurre de rose" suivent non loin derrière. Ce sont des roulés, qui contiennent de la mousse de saumon. Le tout agrémenté de pétales de beurre de rose. Jusque là, vous goûtez à la cuisine traditionnelle française.

Après trois plats, une pause s'impose. Le "sorbet citron à l'estragon" vient à la rescousse. Un zeste de "nouvelle cuisine" au milieu de ce menu gastronomique où les standards sont en première ligne.

Roland Parratte, franc et direct: "A une époque, le monde voulait faire de la nouvelle cuisine. Au bout du compte, cela revenait à avoir une grande assiette avec rien dedans. Aujourd'hui, beaucoup de restaurants font un compromis entre les deux cuisines".

Après le renouveau, retour au classique. Plat suivant, on ne peut plus connu: le "tournefort Rosini". Ingrédients: Mousse de foie gras et sauce aux truffes...

Ce n'est pas fini. Oubliez encore une petite place dans votre estomac déjà bien rempli. Cela vaut la peine. Vous allez déguster "les désirs de la ferme sur son lit de salade". Voilà pour la version cryptée. Avec déclic: il s'agit en fait d'un plateau de fromages traditionnels assorti d'une salade.

Zeste de nouvelle cuisine

Ne nous laissons pas abattre. Le "consommé de volaille aux



De gauche à droite: Charles Vasseur et Roland Parratte

"En France, nous décrivons les plats de cette façon, car nous ne voulons pas que les gens sachent de quoi il s'agit. Ce sont des termes connus des chefs qui servent à enjoliver la cuisine française" dit Roland Parratte. Assez de mystères.

Levons maintenant le voile sur une palette complète de fromages: Brie, Camembert, Roblochon, Roquefort... Juste avant le café et les pralines, "une mousse de fraise sur son coulis" vous sera servie. Une sorte de bavarois. C'est plus frais qu'un gâteau et cela délecte le palais.

Ambiance feutrée

Comme dans les plus grands restaurants, ce dîner de gala sera rythmé par les notes d'un pianiste rouennais, Philippe Carment, qui excelle dans sa spécialité: le Jazz. Ce virtuose qui connaît sur le bout des doigts les différents styles de Jazz, du tout début jusqu'à

l'époque moderne saura créer une ambiance feutrée. "Un grand repas sans musique, c'est un peu froid" précise le chef de la restauration et du bar, Répertoire: Fats Waller, Errol Garner, Oscar Peterson, Bud Powell, Monk, Bill Evans...

Les autres repas de la semaine auront également une forte coloration française. A la carte: du foie gras frais, du turbo, de la saute, un peu de giblet, des confits de canard, et de la bouillabaisse... "En une semaine, nous allons donner une bonne image de la gastronomie française, il n'y a que ça qui ne change pas en France", ironise Roland Parratte. Mais le tout nouveau directeur de la restauration et du bar de l'Intercontinental-Jordan a aussi l'intention de travailler sur le long terme.

Fin septembre, il prévoit l'ouverture d'un restaurant traditionnel français dans l'enceinte de l'hôtel. C'est le sous-chef Vasseur qui a le dossier entre les mains. Ou plutôt le menu. Celui-ci devra changer tous les jours.

La carte sera remodelée trois ou quatre fois dans l'année. "Nous allons essayer de faire de la grande classe, je veux dire de la gastronomie" précise Roland Parratte. L'ambiance sera feutrée, comme pour le dîner de gala. Le service sera élégant. "En principe, on ne doit pas avoir l'impression que quelqu'un vous sert, des gens sont là pour vous aider et le chef discute avec vous". Question incontournable: les prix? Roland Parratte: "Quand les gens vont sortir, ils ne penseront pas à la cherté du repas. Car ce que nous allons faire... je crois que nous serons les seuls à le proposer". ■ F.M.

Cap 93

Air France à l'heure de l'Europe

Le Groupe est l'un des principaux sponsors de la semaine française. Il dévoile ses objectifs avant la grande échéance de 1993.

AIR FRANCE vit à l'heure de Cap 93. Un plan stratégique qui s'articule autour de quatre orientations: améliorer la productivité, renforcer l'efficacité de l'organisation, aller au devant du client, adapter le réseau et la flotte au projet de développement.

Ces grandes lignes servant de cadre aux actions entreprises pour renforcer le Groupe à la veille de l'intensification de la concurrence et de l'offensive at-tendue des compagnies américaines et asiatiques. Elles doivent lui permettre de restaurer ses équilibres économiques dès 1993.

Unification

Ce plan se traduit notamment par une réorganisation des structures de la compagnie Air France, par la recherche de nouveaux

gains de productivité et par l'accélération du processus de construction du Groupe Air France.

La fonction commerciale a déjà subi une réorganisation complète. La création d'une Direction générale passe par la volonté de la compagnie de donner, partout, la priorité au marché et au client. Ce service est organisé autour de trois pôles. Il comprendra une Direction du service au passager et une direction des ventes.

Cap 93 prévoit également une accélération dans le processus de construction du Groupe Air France. L'un des projets doit amener à l'unification sous une même marque des activités aériennes jusqu'à présent exploitées par Air France et UTA.

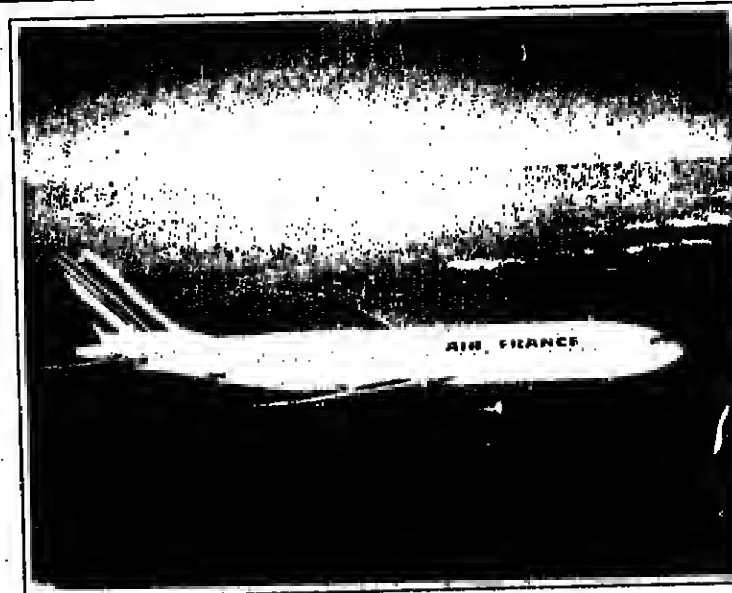
Cette harmonisation présente des avantages économiques im-

portants. On estime à plusieurs unités, le nombre d'appareils libérés si l'exploitation des réseaux d'Air France et d'UTA est assurée sous une seule marque, avec des avions aux mêmes standards.

Des gains et des recettes importantes seront également obtenus, suite à la fusion des réseaux d'Air France et d'UTA sur l'ensemble des réservations informatiques. De nombreuses synergies peuvent découler d'un tel rapprochement.

Air Inter

Cette unification des marques implique le transfert vers Air France de l'activité aérienne d'UTA, celle-ci poursuivant alors son activité de maintenance industrielle, et son activité d'escorte, en particulier à l'aéroport Charles de Gaulle à



Airbus A300

Paris. Tout en se consacrant en priorité au marché métropolitain, Air Inter est par ailleurs le vecteur du Groupe sur certaines lignes moyennes-courriers internationales. Une modification de son statut a été réalisée afin qu'Air Inter puisse devenir une compagnie qui puisse ne pas se limiter au territoire français et arborer à l'avenir son propre pavillon. L'ambiguïté résultant de la com-

mercialisation d'un produit Air Inter, sous la marque Air France est alors définitivement levée.

Par ailleurs, les structures commerciales d'Air Inter ont été revues dans l'esprit qui préside à la réorganisation de la Compagnie Air France.

Cette grande réforme est intervenue le 1er janvier 1992. Le programme d'harmonisation entre Air France et UTA devrait être mis en place au début de 93. ■



Congratulations!
Graduations, appointments, engagements, weddings, newborns, promotions, special awards, excellent achievements.....
Drop us a line and send a photo...we will run it free of charge in The Star's People and Events page.

● The Jordan Royal-Automobile Club announced that out of the 52 drivers who participated in the Okifex-sponsored speed test conducted last Friday, the first ten winners were as follows: Ahmad Qomq (Renault 5 Turbo; in 2:15.04 min.), Ghailth Belhel (Toyota Starlet; in 2:18.37 min.), Ma'rouf Abu Samrah (Renault GT Turbo; in 2:21.62 min.), Saman Al Saudi (Daihatsu Charade GTI; in 2:27.22 min.), Khalid Naghawi (Golf GTI; in 2:28.05 min.), Fouad Agha (Daihatsu Charade GTI; in 2:28.36 min.), Basem Tarazi (Daihatsu Charade GTI; in 2:29.13 min.), Mahmoud Qomq (Fiat Uno Turbo; in 2:32.07 min.), Abdel Qader Abaza (Fiat Uno Turbo; in 2:32.20 min.), Beshara Quz'or (Datsun; in 2:38.09 min.).

● Under the patronage of HRH Princess Willem AII, an exhibition of Turkish handicrafts was opened Wednesday at the Royal Cultural Center (RCC). The exhibition, entitled "From Yesterday to Today", was jointly organized by the Turkish Cultural Center and the Turkish Ladies Association of Amman. The exhibit will run until 7 pm this evening.

● The cultural service of the French Embassy in Amman and the Ministry of Tourism have invited the renowned French writer Jean-Marie Le Clezio to visit Jordan between 29 April and 9 May during which he will visit Amman and Petra.

Born in 1940, Le Clezio is well known to the French literary community. He was awarded one of the most distinguished awards — the Renaudot Award — in 1963, in appreciation of his story "Le Procès-Verbal." He also received the French Academy Award in 1980 for his "Desert" story.

Being a man on the move, Le Clezio was always in search of sources of inspirations through the constant change of people and scenes. Central America, American Indians and pre-Columbian civilizations were central themes in his books.

Le Clezio, an advocate of the Palestinian cause, wrote many essays on Palestinian suffering published in the "Revue Desjudeo Palestiniennes". The 52-year-old writer has over 30 stories most of which were published by Gallimard.

● The Environmental Research Centre (ERC) of the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) has recently concluded the implementation of an agreement with the Commission of the European Communities (CEC) in Jordan as part of the second cooperation protocol between the EC and Jordan. The EC has agreed to provide technical support equivalent to ECU 505,000, in the form of equipment and supplies in addition to enacting a program of experts and technology transfer in the field of environmental protection.

The equipment and supplies will aid ERC in conducting various advanced scientific activities aiming at protecting water resources and enhancing water reuse potential in Jordan. The ERC is also going to receive an additional assistance of ECU 350,000, in continuation of the efforts of the EC in supporting environmental protection in Jordan. EC support of RSS, which started in the 1970s, aims at strengthening RSS capabilities in the fields of scientific and technological research and development as well as training programs and scholarships.

● Deputy Chairman/General Manager of the Arab Banking Corporation (ABC/Jordan), and Mrs Jawad Hadid, held a reception party on Wednesday 22 April at the Plaza Hotel. The reception was held in honor of the arrival of the delegation of the Arab Banking Corporation (ABC/Jordan), and Mrs Jawad Hadid, held a reception party on Wednesday 22 April at the Plaza Hotel. The reception was held in honor of the arrival of the delegation of the Arab Banking Corporation (ABC/Jordan), and Mrs Jawad Hadid, held a reception party on Wednesday 22 April at the Plaza Hotel.



● A number of heads of Arab and foreign diplomatic missions in Jordan, along with other officials and their spouses, gathered at the Crown Rotisserie at the Jordan InterContinental Hotel on Saturday 18 April for a cocktail reception hosted by Mr and Mrs Mustafis Belbel, chairman of Jordan Hotels and Tourism Co.; and by general manager of the hotel and Mrs Shawki Ayoub.



● American string band "The Red Clay Ramblers" will hold a fund raising concert tonight at the Prince Hassan Theater at the University of Jordan. All proceeds will go to the Cerebral Palsy Foundation, towards the building of their new school.

The group will also give a concert at Yarmouk University on Saturday 3 May, for the benefit of the Cerebral Palsy Foundation's branch in Irbid.

The Red Clay Ramblers have been together for nearly 20 years, and have been described as playing "a mind-boggling hybrid of acoustic music... a fascinating mix of Irish music, polkas, Tin Pan Alley, Dixieland jazz, slave spirituals, fox-trots, waltzes, reels and two-steps." This will be played, with good natured lunacy, natural grace and flair!

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Congratulations!
Graduations, appointments, engagements, weddings, newborns, promotions, special awards, excellent achievements.....
Drop us a line and send a photo...we will run it free of charge in The Star's People and Events page.



● Executive Director of the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS), Dr Abdullah Al Khalil distributed, Thursday 23 April, certificates to the graduates of a joint training project between GUVS and the Near East Foundation (NEF). The events were held at Thunelba in Ramtha districts and Bir Khedad in Shobak district.

Candidates were trained in the methodology and skills of community self-evaluation, and in the management of a credit-fund that will be established in each village. The program was organized by NEF, an American non-profit foundation established in 1915 to assist orphans and refugees in the Middle East. NEF's branch in Jordan was established in 1937. Since then, the foundation has worked primarily in agricultural extension in the southern part of the kingdom. In addition, NEF has concentrated on community development, youth activities and primary health care.

NEF held a celebration in Petra, during which agreements were signed between the foundation and two local societies, Thunelba and Bir Khedad societies received a donation of JD 10,000 from The National Telephone Company of Jordan, in an attempt to help start low-capital projects to ensure economic development in both cities.

At the end of the ceremony, a "mansaf" dinner was held for the guests of the foundation.



● For those who enjoyed January's antique auction organized by the House of Antiques and the Islamic and Arabic Heritage House, there will be now a second opportunity to snap up some splendid bargains.

The auction, only the second of its kind so far in Jordan, will be held tomorrow in the Badia Hall of the Jordan InterContinental Hotel at 3 pm. Auction supervisor Mr Samir Abu-Dehays aims to tempt prospective bidders by revealing to The Star some of his up-and-coming attractions: Two Fabergé eggs (with an estimated value of JD 2100 for both), an 18th century Sevres vase (JD 1,500), two illustrated 18th century Persian manuscripts with cloven and nine minarets (JD 750 and 450, respectively), Herakle carvings and another first edition of Al-Ahram.

He also revealed that pieces from the last show had since resold at phenomenal prices: An embroidered piece of the Ka'ba cover bought for JD 5,200, resold in London for £14,000, while a Sevres piece bought for JD 9,750 resold in Paris for \$27,000.

All those interested in securing an antique investment have until 9 pm today to visit the Badia Hall and view the 400 exhibits in advance. Sotheby's and Christie's 1990 and 1991 catalogues will also be on sale.

Agenda

Films

● The American Cultural Center will be showing the film "On The Waterfront" tonight at 7 pm. The film is about a young dock worker who breaks the hold of a waterfront gang boss.

Exhibitions

● At Baladna Art Gallery, the exhibition of sculpture artists Jalal and Amal Abboud, graduates of the Fine Arts Academy in Baghdad, will run until 7 May. Pastel, metal and bronze sculptures display a unique personal style.

of the Fine Arts Academy in Baghdad, will run until 7 May. Pastel, metal and bronze sculptures display a unique personal style.

● At Alla Art Gallery, the oil paintings of Iraqi artist Maurice Haddad will still be open to public until 3 May.

Field trips

● Friends of Archaeology (FoA) will conduct a field trip to Umm Qais on Friday 1 May. Ms Suzanne Kerner, director of the German Protestant Institute, will brief the Friends on the archaeological history of the area.

Black Britain: The word on the street is Islam

By Kate Daniels
Star Staff Writer

FASHION, AS we know, can be fickle. Gone are the days of the gun-toting "gangster" rappers; the paramilitary uniforms are out, the heavy gold rings and chains are gone, references to sex and drugs are now decidedly outdated.

Instead, they're talking "peace", they've traded their chains for caftans and the word on the street is Islam. But this is not a fashion statement, this is the new generation of young, black converts, whose numbers suggest that in Great Britain alone, Islam is now the fastest growing religion.

"I think of it as 'reverting' to Islam, rather than 'converting'," said Juma, a West Indian Christian by birth, and now an Arabic language student at the University of London. "Islam is the black faith. When the white man took our forefathers as slaves to the Caribbean, they were Muslims. It's the age-old issue of 'roots'; blacks are finding themselves, and this is one way of expressing it."

Islam has been a political vehicle for the voice of black nationalism since the 1960s, when the Nation of Islam was formed by Elijah Poole, a black American who studied under the guidance of the Sufi mystic Dr Fard Muhammad.

A vocal black activist and later mentor to Malcolm X, Elijah Poole assumed the title "The Honorable Elijah Muhammad", and began to preach his message to the "lost and found Islamic peoples" of black America. Afro-American conversion to the faith has since been steady, and the ethnic appeal of Islam is now a global phenomenon.

"All men are equal in the sight of Allah; Islam is an egalitarian faith," said Cassim, a 24-year-old Muslim from Manchester, England. "Islam has finally given blacks self-worth, after over 400 years of oppression."

Like many of his contemporaries, Cassim views Christianity as an alien faith that was forced upon his ancestors during the slave trade. "It was simply a form of social control," he argued, "and it remains a symbol of slavery. European Christians charged black slaves with being the shamed descendants of Ham, and that according to the curse of Canaan, they were condemned to be slaves to the white man. In Islam



Cassim with his family

we submit to nothing but the will of Allah."

Fellow friend and convert Zaki, who rejected his Roman Catholic upbringing at the age of 19, supported Cassim's views. "Blacks are tired of white supremacy," he said. "Malcolm X said that in Islam one has the right to fight for a just cause. Therefore, he used his faith to fight towards abolishing the white man's racism, prejudice and other social injustices."

"Unfortunately, Christianity was manipulated for the aims of white supremacy," added Cassim. "Look at the way in which Jesus is depicted — blond haired, blue eyed, sometimes wearing a crown. He was a poor, Palestinian Jew, not an aristocratic prince."

Solidarity among black converts has meant that Islam's new wave of recruits are finding few problems in reconciling their new faith with their former lifestyles. "I still go out, but I don't drink alcohol," said Juma. "And as far as girlfriends are concerned, I intend to stay single until I find a Muslim girl to marry. My meat is all halal, I fast in Ramadan and I pray five times a day — even in work."

"My lifestyle is strict, but I enjoy it," added Zaki. "Islam has changed my life in many ways. It's a focus; it's self-improving. Aspects such as fasting encourage stamina, dedication and strength of character."

Lella, who is 26, and was introduced to the faith by a work-mate, said, "People criticize me for converting, especially my female friends. I don't agree that by becoming a Muslim I am signing away my freedom as a woman. I still perform the same job and I still love the man I married. My husband is wholly supportive of my move, in fact he wants to learn more because he is considering converting himself."

"Contrary to putting me in chains, my faith has encouraged me to be independent, and to defend what I believe in," she said. "British Christians have the strangest ideas about Muslim women; some think we are obliged to walk three paces behind our husbands."

Some of Britain's black youth remain nonplussed about Islam, while others completely reject the idea of forsaking their Christian faith. Boverly, a 23-year-old teacher, said, "It is true that Christianity was forced upon black slaves, but the case was the same with Islam, particularly with the trade routes through East Africa." She also rejected the idea that by denouncing Christianity, blacks are psychologically emancipating themselves from the legacy of white supremacy.

"It is true that Islam is often equated with the (black) nationalist movement," she said. "But don't forget that for every Malcolm X there is a Christian counterpart. Look at Martin Luther King — it was his Christian faith that gave him the courage and the strength to resist oppression."

"Religion is a personal thing," she added, "and we shouldn't differentiate when we all need it. We have a voice, we are free-thinking; we are black and we are British. Faith gives strength to any man regardless of theology."

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By Hind-Lara Mango
Special to The Star

SEVEN PALESTINIAN artists are currently showing their work at the Abdul Hamid Foundation Gallery. Entitled "New Visions", this show deals with Palestine — the country, its heritage, and the uprising. Following in the footsteps of a similar exhibition held in 1990, this year's artists were Vero Tamari, Nabil Anani, Silman Mansur and Tayseer Barakat, joined by new-comers Jawad Al-Malhi, Ya'qoub Al-Kurd, and Khalil Rabah. Their work will be on show until 14 May.

All of the pieces are abstract, with some making clearer statements than others. Tamari stands out by the medium she has chosen; she creates realistic images of her homeland out of pottery, with the basic theme of a steadfast people facing all opposing elements.

One distinctive piece is of a terracotta family, standing together with their hair blowing in the wind, looking on at the mangled gray mass which once meant home. Much emphasis is given to the symbol of the family, since the artist stresses: "For me the family is the focal point." She explains that every day, images of destroyed homes are shown on television, while families look on. Yet these people remain rooted and defiant — and this is her message.

Uprooted trees, crafted in stark, morbid colors and coated with glossy glaze are another symbol: The punishment that Palestinians receive for defying the occupation; the destruction of their precious olive trees.

Some of Tamari's pieces are wall reliefs, which are empty of people and seem more joyful; one is a typical, blue-covered breakfast table. Is this a sign that the artist is breaking away from her traditional work? "No, I used to do a lot of wall reliefs, and the miniatures that you see are part of my continuing efforts to experiment with all that clay has to offer," she answered.

Inspiration comes from old family photographs, news clippings and current events: Past and present merge, triggering off a sense of nostalgia.

For Silman Mansur, the intifada has also left its imprint on his work. His cave-like frescoes give one the sense of going back in time to the epochs of the cave man, when he first started to express himself using natural dyes on stone. He shows Man expressing his frustration and lashing out — using straw, chalk, henna, and other items from earth's treasures.

The artist explained: "The intifada has taught us to become self-reliant and to make use of whatever is available. With the present economic situation, we have had to search for other alternatives to the usual materials used in art."

Formerly heading the League of Palestinian Artists in the Occupied Territories, Silman feels that people like himself are actively portraying boldness in their choice of color and brush strokes. He stated that "there is a will to change and to create better art."

Anani is one of these artists. He chose leather as his dominant medium and took his inspiration from ancient Middle Eastern art traditions. Overlapping masses create lifelike mountains in various degrees of brown. In each work, Anani makes sure to include a traditional motif — the sun may be oriental in design, or a piece of embroidered cloth. Even though this technique is still in an experimental phase, Anani feels that it has carried him "one step further."

Denim and corduroy fabrics are other unconventional materials employed in the collages of Ya'qoub Al-Kurd. Concentrating mainly on the female figure, he uses strips of this material in decorating her dress, hair, or a quilt. Tayseer Barakat relies heavily on abstract, and shuns any realistic figures from appearing in his work. Turbid black on white, or thick powder paint reflect the artist's interaction with his environment. One composition is an experiment with prints — four canvas squares of different sizes are arranged; one is scribbled upon with pencil; another shows the imprint of a car tire while another is heavily colored. Multi-colored pastel squares are stuck side by side in the corner, neatly contrasting with the otherwise chaotic strips. The artist explained: "I am searching to understand my inner world, shaped by the interrelated universal rhythms of daily life."

Despite the wide variety of materials, all of the pieces project a political message. "New Visions II" has brought people together — those who think and who dream alike in their aspiration for peace.

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ENGLISH PROGRAM

SATURDAY

8:30 — Super Bloopers.
9:00 — Encounter. Guest Lebanese poet Jawdat Haidar.
9:30 — Varieties.
10:00 — News In English.
10:20 — Tracks of Glory. A mini series starring Phil Morris. The film is about black American world champion cyclist, Major Taylor, who went to Australia to compete against its national cyclist.

SUNDAY

8:30 — Wings. "Puppet master". Brian imagines himself to be a puppeteer, and treats his employees accordingly — resulting in funny situations.
9:10 — The Long Ride: A documentary program about an American millionaire who decides to travel to China to rest and get away from his admirers.
10:00 — News In English.
10:20 — Track of Glory. Part II: Major, Don and their wives decide to boycott the contest's organizer, Macintosh, until he agrees to run a clean business.

MONDAY

8:30 — Comedy.
9:10 — Capital City: The director of Shant Dealers creates a mess when he buys money on the black market.
10:00 — News In English.
10:20 — Gold. A new series: Johnny and his brother Tom find gold in the river. They manage to get a franchise for prospecting from the New Zealand police, but thieves never leave them alone.

TUESDAY

8:30 — Princesses. "Someday my prince will come". The three protagonists decide to split the house work between them. Princess Georgina reluctantly agrees.
9:10 — Rich Tea and Sympathy: Julia's ideas influence George's decision to cut down on manpower at the packing department.
10:00 — News In English.
10:20 — Oscar Films. "Roman Holiday": Princess Ann decides to exchange her throne for a peaceful time amongst the public, thus causing anxiety to her government.

WEDNESDAY

8:30 — Spatz. "Bye Bye T.J.": The staff members do their best

The Star's TV GUIDE

Programs on

Jordan
Television
from
2 - 8
May

to dissuade T. J. from accepting the promotion and the transfer to Canada.

9:10 — World of Audubon. "Sea turtles": A documentary program on yet another of man's victims — the ancient nomad, the sea turtles.

10:00 — News In English.
10:20 — The Other Side of Paradise: Manna is arrested for poisoning the doctor. The Americans, on the other hand, declare war on Japan in the aftermath of their attack on Pearl Harbor.

THURSDAY

8:30 — The Simpsons: Homer Simpson and his wife decide to go on a holiday trip, so they ask Homer's father to baby-sit for them.
9:10 — N.B.A. Basketball.
10:00 — News In English.
10:20 — Movie of the Week. "Love Story": Starring Ryan O'Neal. Oliver, a law student and the son of a millionaire, falls in love with Jenny, daughter of a poor baker, and they decide to get married without their parents' blessing.

FRIDAY

8:30 — Coach: Haydn's daughter, Kelly, is disappointed because Stewart decides to move to California to work there, and forgets all about their marriage plans.
9:10 — E.N.G. "The chilling effect": Nick, who works on a top secret project for the gov-



Spatz, Wednesday at 8:30

ernment, loses classified information on his genes research. The federal police want those documents.
10:00 — News In English.
10:20 — Devices and Designs: It is revealed that the station manager had had an intimate relationship with the deceased.
11:10 — Sibs: Nora's husband is utterly surprised that his wife can afford to give him a luxury car for their wedding anniversary.

FRENCH PROGRAM

SAMEDI

6:00 — Les tortues Ninja. A cartoon series for children.
6:25 — Le dessous des cartes. A documentary program.
6:30 — La famille Fontaine. A series about a family.
7:00 — News In French.
7:15 — Magazine. A cultural magazine.

DIMANCHE

5:30 — Michel Vaillant. A cartoon series.

5:50 — Des chiffres et des lettres. A program about the completion of numbers and letters between two competitors.
6:10 — L'école des fans. A program where children sing the songs of their favorite singers.
7:00 — News In French.
7:15 — Carnet de notes. A classical music program.

LUNDI

6:00 — Le jeu des animaux. A program about the composing of names for animals.
6:10 — Le monde sous-marin de Jacques-Yves Cousteau. A documentary program about marine life.
7:00 — News In French.
7:15 — Le magazine sportif. The weekly sports magazine.

MARDI

6:00 — Bouli. A cartoon series for children.
6:05 — Les tortues Ninja. A cartoon series.
6:30 — Marc et Sophie. A comedy series about two doctors.
7:00 — News In French.
7:15 — Varieties. A selection of French songs.

MERCREDI

6:00 — Le monde est à vous. A variety and cultural program.
7:00 — News In French.
7:15 — Intertropique. The Nigerian magazine on Africa.

JEUDI

6:00 — Les sanctuaires sauvages. A documentary program.
6:30 — Maguy. A series about Maguy and her husband.
7:00 — News In French.
7:15 — International Circus. Le cirque du Soleil.

VENDREDI

5:30 — Le stagiaire. A French film.
7:00 — News In French.
7:15 — Teranga Guillaume. A film.

YOUR HOROSCOPE

by Jean Dixon

ARIES (21 March - 19 April): Someone is likely to ask for financial help. Think twice before committing yourself. The news from abroad can help you spread good will.

TAURUS (20 April - 20 May): A family problem can be solved if you continue to be patient. Finish routine chores early in the week. The mail brings information that will help your career.

GEMINI (21 May - 20 June): An old friendship can be renewed. Romance may be involved. Put your best foot forward. Your co-workers could be in a difficult mood. Projects you can handle alone produce the best results.

CANCER (21 June - 22 July): Direct action if necessary to achieve your goals. Your financial situation improves. Showcase your talents and you will amaze those who have misjudged you in the past.

LEO (23 July - 22 August): An opportune time to pursue your personal goals. Friend and family offer no resistance. Follow established work procedures.

VIRGO (23 August - 22 September): Cooperation is the key to success. A creative project gets the green light; move ahead quickly.

LIBRA (23 September - 22 October): Keep in touch with important clients. Do not underestimate your talents; expect others to pay you a fair price. Travel is favored.

SCORPIO (23 October - 21 November): Creative projects are of major importance now. Specify requirements. Avoid manipulating others.

SAGITTARIUS (22 November - 21 December): Ask direct questions and you will receive better results. All sides will profit from a candid assessment.

CAPRICORN (22 December - 19 January): Your vitality is high. Overseas contacts play an important role in your business success. Stick to your priorities.

AQUARIUS (20 January - 18 February): Improve security by tightening regulations. Join forces with people who are shouldering their share of the load.

PISCES (19 February - 20 March): Show good judgment in your business dealings. You will end up in the winner's circle if you persevere.

Would You Believe.....

Taking the felt off the hammers of a piano gives the instrument that "honky-tonk" sound for ragtime songs.

The lost ice age ended less than 20,000 years ago, a mere blip of time compared with the overall age of the Earth.

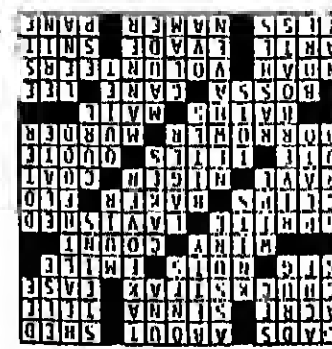
Some people believe an inventor by the name of Gustave Whitehead flew in a plane in 1901, two years before the Wright brothers' famous first flight.

The island of Greenland, the largest in the world, is more than 1,500 miles long and 800 miles wide at its widest point.

Some say a raccoon's footprint looks a lot like one that would be left by a small human being.

Earthquakes killed about 52,000 people worldwide in 1980. Only 57,000 people died in earthquakes throughout the entire 1980s.

Solution



JORDAN BRIDGE

By Ghassan Ghanem

Another Damascus hand

THE DAMASCUS Bridge Association organized the First Damascus International Bridge Festival. Our brothers made their best to produce a successful festival. Our friends tried hard, but they have the same problems we all have in this game, the organizers are also playing, nevertheless, the final result was a happy ending for the organizers on the account of their results, a typical situation, but I am sure that our Syrian friends did not mind since their main target was a successful festival.

Here is a hand from the second session of the Open Pairs:

♠ AK
♥ 432
♦ 1054
♣ AK987

♠ 975
♥ 109876
♦ 32
♣ Q105

♠ J1086
♥ —
♦ KQ987
♣ 6432

♠ Q432
♥ AKQJ5
♦ AJ6
♣ J

Playing a normal contract of 6♥, I won the diamond lead and got the bad news when I cashed the ♥ A.

With a sure heart loser, I should eliminate the spade and diamond losers.

In view of the trump situation, I can't afford ruffing the club good, so, I played the ♠ J and the lady on my left hesitated then played the five. Should I finesse?

I couldn't think of a distribution that would lead to a successful line without finessing. Accordingly, I finessed the ♠ J, went to dummy via a spade honor to cash the ♠ A and the ♠ K discarding my two diamond cards and cashed the other spade honor.

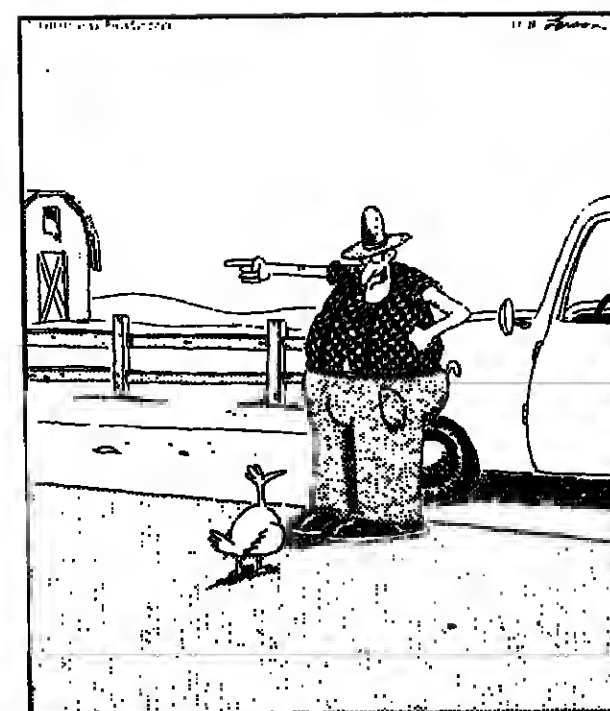
I played a club winner and discarded the spade loser and west could choose to ruff or not, she couldn't make more than a trump trick.

If the ♠ Q or the ♠ 10 didn't drop, then after cashing the other spade honor I would have ruffed a diamond, cashed the ♠ Q for the twelfth trick.

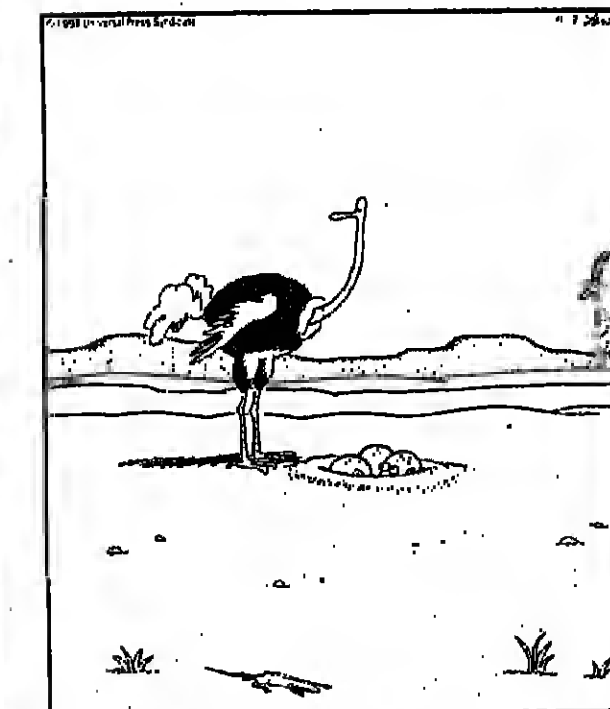
Should west cover ♠ J? A difficult question to answer on the table, but covering is essential when declarer holds the singleton Jack, immaterial when he holds the Jack doubleton or third because the final result would depend on declarer's decision, so, West should have covered.

THE FAR SIDE

By GARY LARSON



"Sure. The place you're lookin' for is straight over them hills — course, that's as the crow flies, not as the chicken walks. Ha ha ha ha."



By blending in with the ostrich's eggs, Hare Krahmaa are subsequently raised by the adult birds.



Same planet, different worlds

Spring exhibition unveils new colors, traditional quality

By Kate Daniels
Star Staff Writer

NOW THAT spring has arrived you may be thinking of adding a new dash of color to your wardrobe, brightening your bedcovers or color coordinating your home. Maybe you are looking for a gift for newly-weds, or perhaps a special friend?

Perfect gift ideas include colorful, handwoven rugs, beautifully embroidered quilts and pillow cases, cushions, handbags, T-shirts and beachbags... and all can be bought locally at one of the year's most exciting and worthwhile exhibitions.

An annual event, this spring exhibition has been organized by Save the Children, and features the exquisite products and handicrafts of the Bani Hamida and Jordan River Designs projects.

The beauty of the exhibition is that, besides displaying high-quality, locally produced items, it also promotes women's development projects and encourages Jordan's potential handicrafts export market.

"The Bani Hamida women's weaving project was started by Save the Children in 1985, and Jordan River Designs was set up two years later," said Ms Rebecca Sali, director of Save the Children in Jordan. "The programs incorporate income-generating cottage industries, health and agricultural projects, children's education and credit programs."

The output of these cottage industries will be on display at the exhibition: Traditionally woven woolen rugs, lavishly embroidered cushions, suede and leather purses, handbags and wallets, cotton tote bags, olive oil soap and delightful collector's dolls.

"The success of these projects has been the wide selection of colors and designs in the products available," said Ms Sali. "For example, the Bani Hamida women originally started out with only one design; it's amazing how much they have diversified to meet modern day needs." She also emphasized customer choice: "The designs can be customized according to the color scheme of your home — there is lots of flexibility."

Both of the projects, which are carried out in cooperation with the Noor Al-Husseini Foundation under the auspices of the Ministry of Social Development, provide a livelihood for over 1600 women and their children. Besides reaping the obvious benefits, such as better health and education for themselves and their families, the women involved have learnt a multitude of new skills, and their lives have been enriched in many ways.

"There is a new air of professionalism among the young bedouin and refugee women," said Ms Sali. "For the Bani Hamida tribe, many are the first generation who have been able to read and write. For the last two years

we have been training the women in using calculators, tracking inventories, learning to drive trucks and typing.

"It is fun to work on these projects, because they have empowered so many women," she added. "They now have a source of income that they never had before. We have watched bedouin women put all of their daughters into school; we have also watched them go on the pilgrimage and perform their life's dream."

The spring exhibition aims to target both long-standing followers of Bani Hamida and Jordan River Designs, along with visitors and newcomers to Amman, particularly from the Gulf. It also promises to deliver traditional classics along with new color combinations and ideas, including embroidered lampshades, T-shirts and wall hangings.

"This is an annual promotion, and the projects are very dependent on the sales from the spring exhibition," said Ms Sali. Her modest aspirations for the projects include an eventual export market and eventual self-sufficiency for these traditional and ambitious cottage industries.

The exhibition, which is under the patronage of HM Queen Noor Al-Husseini, will run until 6 May at the Haj Hassan Estate (Abdoun Valley Rd - Hal Nazzal Rd). Follow the signs. 10 am to 9 pm.

Radisson offers Silver Hotel pass to in-bound tourists

Radisson Hotels International have announced the launch of an innovative program that assists international tourists travelling to the United States, Canada, Mexico and the Caribbean, arranging for pre-paid hotel accommodation before leaving their countries.

The Radisson "Discover America Silver Hotel Pass Program" is effective 15 March 1991 to 31 March 1993. The Silver Hotel Passes are purchased in the traveler's home country at a rate of \$99 (USD) per night.

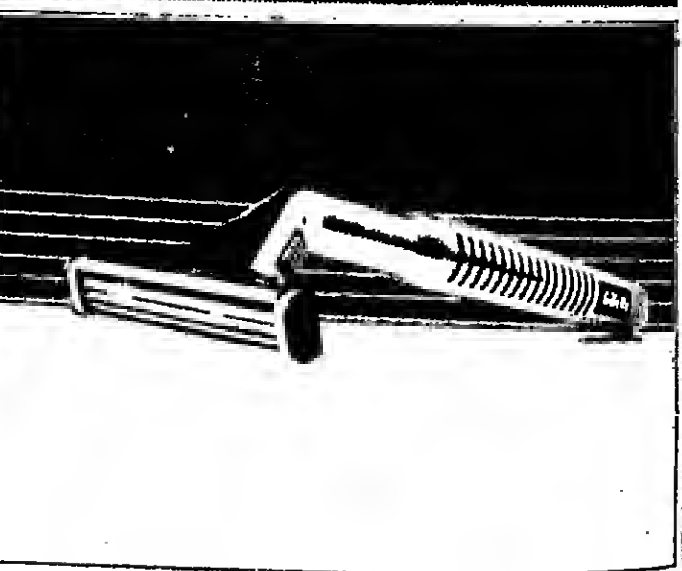
One Silver Hotel Pass provides one night's lodging at nearly 100 Radisson Hotels around the United States, Canada, Mexico and the Caribbean for up to four adults. A minimum of four Silver Hotel Passes must be purchased which can be used in a combination of Radisson Hotels. Reservations must be made in advance and some restrictions apply. Taxes and other incidental expenses are not included.

"We're excited to offer this innovative program to in-bound travelers," said Scott Fischburg, director of travel industry sales for Radisson Hotels International. "Other international programs don't offer the flexibility of Radisson's Discover America Silver Hotel Pass. Our price is available for nearly 100 different Radisson hotels."

We anticipate that many international visitors will take advantage of the Silver Hotel Pass because it's so easy to use. Reservations can be guaranteed and the Silver Hotel Passes can be purchased at more than 36 Discover the World Offices located in major cities across the globe, from retail travel agencies, major wholesalers and tour operators," said Joyce Jeffers, vice president of sales for Discover the World Marketing.

The Radisson Hotels International organization manages, operates and franchises deluxe plaza hotels, suite hotels, hotels, inns and resorts at more than 315 locations in 25 countries around the world. Corporate headquarters are located in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Discover the World Marketing is a unique US-based international travel marketing firm with worldwide satellite offices which produces incremental sales in foreign markets for a select group of complementary clients within the travel industry.



Gillette's Sensor blades reach Jordan market

The Gillette company started promoting its latest innovation in the field of razors and blades in Jordan on 12 March, this year. It is the Gillette Sensor, which, ever since it was promoted in the United States two years ago, has been considered the most technologically advanced shaving product in the past twenty years.

The company spent over \$200 million on the research behind this new technology. Gillette Sensor has received many international awards for its superb making, promotion and technology, and was named "The Product of the Year" by The Fortune and Business Week economic magazines.

The new system includes many innovative features, of which the most prominent is the skin guard, which is mounted on springs to keep the two blades in the right position and ensure a closer shave. Gillette has used sophisticated laser technology to weld each blade separately on a different spring, so that each blade functions independently of the other. The pivoting action feature enables the blade to feel the creases and contours of the face and to respond accordingly, thus giving improved results.

The new product has gone through extensive field tests, which also included a questionnaire about how those who used it felt towards it. Five thousand people were asked at random, and they all expressed their full satisfaction with the results.

Gillette managed to gain 40 per cent of markets very soon after the new system was promoted. The sales of the company have also increased by 30 per cent, and cartridge sales have exceeded by 50 per cent. After only 21 months, Gillette announced that 100 billion cartridges had already been sold in the United States alone, compared to the sales of Gillette O2 and Contour which reached this number after three years of promotion.

The Gillette company is confident that the new product will succeed on the Middle Eastern market due to the various new features it is equipped with.

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British Airways	641430
China Airlines	637380
Cathay Pacific	624363
Cyprus Airways	667028
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Emirates Airlines	662141/678321
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Queen Alia Airport (08)53200

Diary

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Goethe Institute	641993
Soviet Cultural Centre	644203
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Turkish Cultural Centre	639777
Haya Arts Centre	665195
Husseini Youth City	667181/5
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Y.W.M.A.	664251
Amman Mun. Library	637111
Univ. of Jordan Library	834555

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Rainbow	625155
Plaza	674111
Philadelphia	634144
Nijom	675571

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Al Hussein Sports City	667181
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Royal Automobile Club	815410
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Museums

Folklore Museum: Jewelry and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. year round. Closed Tuesdays. Tel: 638795.

Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabal Al-Qal'a (Citadel Hill). Opening hours: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel: 630128.

Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculptures by contemporary Islamic artists from most of the Muslim countries, and a collection of paintings by 19th century Orientalist artists. Muntazah, Jabal Weibdeh. Hours 10 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel: 630128.

Churches

St. Joseph Church: (Roman Catholic) Jabal Amman, Tel. 624590

Church of the Annunciation: (Roman Catholic) Jabal Weibdeh, Tel. 637440.

Dalu Salla Church: (Roman Catholic) Jabal Hussein, Tel. 661757.

Tarrasana Church: (Roman Catholic) Jabal Weibdeh, mass in Italian every Saturday at 5:30 p.m. Tel. 622366.

Church of the Annunciation: (Greek Orthodox) Abdali, Tel. 623541.

Church of the Redeemer: Jabal Amman, Tel. 625383.

Armenian Orthodox Church: Ashrafieh, Tel. 775261.

St. Ephraim Church: (Syrian Orthodox) Ashrafieh, Tel. 771751.

Amman International Church: (Interdenominational) meets at Southern Baptist School in Shmeisani, Tel. 827981.

Church of the Good Shepherd: (Evangelical Lutheran) Um As-Summaq Tel. 811295.

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